

# Colombian *Trypanosoma cruzi* major genotypes circulating in patients:

## Minicircle homologies by cross-hybridization analysis

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Here we present compelling evidence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* genotypes infecting 77 human cases of Chagas disease in Santander Department of Colombia. The patients were clinically studied and classified according to the presence of cardiac symptoms. We describe the distribution of the major *T. cruzi* genotypes circulating in this area by means of direct PCR analysis of blood samples. PCR was directed to minicircles and amplified DNAs were hybridized using genotype-specific DNA probes. These samples were previously genotyped with miniexon, 24S rRNA and cytochrome oxidase subunit II (COII) markers. Minicircle DNA analyses were more sensitive than miniexon, 24S rRNA and CO II genes in detecting infective *T. cruzi* II (Tc II). Two Tc II genotypes were identified by hybridization using two complementary DNA probes in 27.3% of the patients, with 15.3% using all three markers. These corresponded to 10 cases genotyped only by hybridization. The lineage Tc I, determined by hybridization, was the mo