

# Influence of Host on Nutriome on Immunological Control of Protozoal Infections

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## Introduction

- Immunologic control of parasitic infections is a combination of humoral and cellular immunity
- Inadequate nutritional status impairs the functioning of the immune system potentially resulting in increased susceptibility to protozoal infections
- Laboratory, epidemiological, and other observational studies provide convincing evidence that micronutrient deficiencies contribute to the mortality and morbidity of infectious diseases<sup>1,2</sup>
- We aim to synthesize existing knowledge around the interrelationships between nutrients and immune function and demonstrate the ways in which nutrient deficiencies such as zinc, iron and vitamin A impact immune response and defence in patients with protozoal diseases such as Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease

## Methods

- PubMed, Embase, Medline, Scopus, and LILACS were searched from database inception to March 13, 2019 using combinations of the search terms (Leish\* OR Trypanosom\* OR Protozoa\*) AND (Vitamin A Deficiency OR Iron Deficiency OR Anemia OR Zinc Deficiency OR Nutrient Deficienc\* OR Nutritional Deficienc\* OR Nutritionally compromised OR Micronutrient\* OR Malnutrition OR Nutrition OR Nutritional Status) AND (Immunology OR Immunity OR Immune System OR Immune Function OR Immune Impairment OR Immune Response OR Immune Status)

## Future Directions

### Screening

- Titles, abstracts, and full-text articles will be systematically double screened by two reviewers with a tertiary arbitrator

### PRISMA

- The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) will be implemented

### Data Extraction

- Data extraction will be performed by two reviewers and the quality of the articles will be critically evaluated using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) approach

## Results

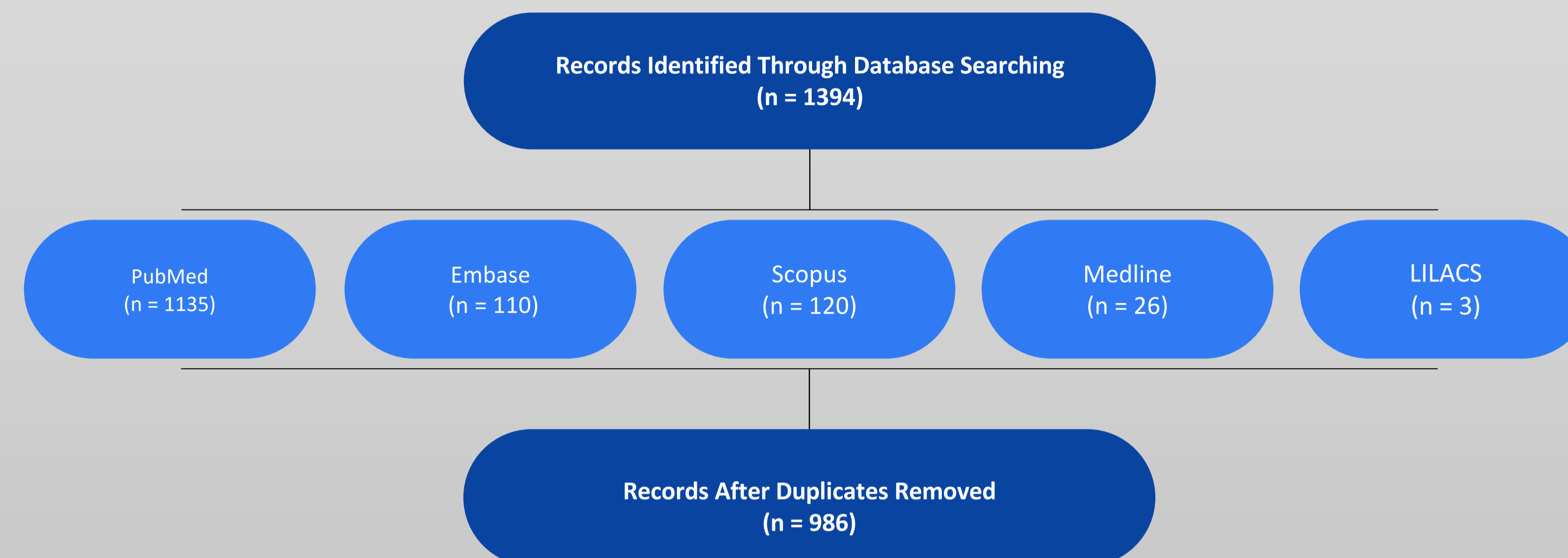


Table 1. Known immunological effects of micronutrients in cellular, murine, and in vivo models of leishmaniasis and Chagas disease.

Micronutrient	<i>Leishmania</i>	<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>
Zinc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral treatment with zinc sulfate reduces lesion size and parasite load and enhances Th1 cytokine response in ulcers of <i>L. major</i></li> <li>• Zinc-deficient diets lead to greater visceralization of <i>L. donovani</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mononuclear phagocytes have reduced capacity to associate with and kill <i>T. cruzi</i> in setting of zinc deficiency</li> </ul>
Iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron chelation delays development of cutaneous ulcers due to <i>L. major</i></li> <li>• Paradoxically, systemic iron leads to reduced parasite load and footpad pathology</li> <li>• Iron-deficient diets lead to greater visceralization of <i>L. donovani</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron chelation decreases parasitemia and mortality in <i>T. cruzi</i> infected mice due to a trypanostatic effect</li> </ul>
Vitamin A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of Vitamin A are lower in children with visceral leishmaniasis</li> <li>• Vitamin A supplementation promotes multiplication of <i>L. donovani</i></li> <li>• Vitamin A deficiency leads to Th2 to Th1 switching, and greater production of Th1 cytokines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deficiency alters innate immunity by impairing normal regeneration of mucosal barriers damaged by <i>T. cruzi</i> infection, and by reducing the function of PMNs, macrophages, and NK cells</li> </ul>
Vitamin C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prophylactic administration of Vitamin C reduces uptake of <i>L. donovani</i> in hamsters, thereby reducing parasite burden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vitamin C reduces parasitemia in <i>T. cruzi</i> infected mice compared to controls, but not compared to benznidazole</li> <li>• Combination vitamin C and benznidazole led to 100% survival and reduced acute-phase infection weight loss</li> </ul>
Vitamin D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vitamin D binding protein is downregulated in visceral leishmaniasis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflammatory reaction and cellular and tissue parasitism by <i>T. cruzi</i> reduced in animals given higher doses of Vitamin D</li> </ul>
Vitamin B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deficiency does not alter clinical course of visceral leishmaniasis in mice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deficiency leads to higher parasitemia and larger cardiac lesions in <i>T. cruzi</i> infected rats</li> </ul>

## References

<sup>1</sup>Taylor, C. E., & Higgs, E. S. (2000). Micronutrients and infectious diseases: Thoughts on integration of mechanistic approaches into micronutrient research. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 182(Supplement\_1), S1-S4.  
<sup>2</sup>Sanjoaquin, M. A., Molyneux, M. E. (2009). Malaria and vitamin A deficiency in African children: a vicious circle? *Malaria Journal*, 8(134).

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