

Infectious Disease Case Protagonist Decision Analysis

1. Undocumented Worker in Costa Rica

You were diagnosed with an acute case of Chagas disease and told you should go to the hospital and begin a treatment of benznidazole. What are your hesitations about this treatment plan? What are your other options? What is your final decision?

2. Local Physician

You have noticed a high rate of undocumented workers with Chagas disease. Why might they be at high risk for this disease? What is your treatment plan? What are the risks of non-compliance? How do you convince your patients to follow through with treatment in a way that is sensitive to their situation (being undocumented, work conditions, cultural beliefs about spiritual healers, etc.)?

3. Costa Rican Minister of Health

What are your goals for addressing the prevalence of chagas in your country? What is your plan for implementing these goals? How will you measure its effectiveness? What are potential impediments to your plan?

4. Guaymi Curandero (Indigenous tribe healer)

What is your treatment plan for chagas? How do you feel about the conventional treatment plan from the doctor? Is there any opportunity for you to work with the medical doctors to offer the patient a plan that is more comprehensive or culturally sensitive?

5. National Biodiversity Institute (INBio) in Costa Rica

You have an agreement with Alpha Pharmaceuticals to collect samples of natural materials for them in exchange for a payment for the samples, but no profits from any products that are developed from the samples. What are the potential benefits of selling such samples to Alpha Pharm? What are the potential hazards? How will you address the hazards?

6. Dole Bananas

Many of your workers are undocumented immigrants and as such are a cheap source of labor for you. How do you characterize your relationship to these workers – is it a win-win situation or do you feel one party benefits more than the other? What kinds of protections do you have in place for your workers if they get sick or injured? What would be the benefits and the downfalls of treating them fairly, and what is your final decision in how you choose to treat them?