

PREVALENCE OF PARASITIC DISEASES ENTAMOEBA HISTOLYTICA AND GIARDIA IN SCHOOLCHILDREN OF JAHROM

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Abstract

Introduction: Giardia and Entamoeba histolytica are among the most common causes of intestinal parasitic infections and infectious diarrhea across the world, to the effect that Giardiasis and Amebiasis occur at a rate of 7.3 and 10 percent, respectively. Giardia infection in childhood and the failure to treat it leads to malnutrition, weight loss and abdominal pain. Amoeba infection can cause complications such as liver abscess along with acute infectious diarrhea in children. Considering the pathogenicity of these two parasites in children, the purpose of present study is to investigate the prevalence of the parasitic diseases Entamoeba histolytica and Giardia in schoolchildren of Jahrom.

Methodology: In the present study, 200 primary school students were randomly selected from five schools in three districts of different sanitation coverage (good, fair and poor). Forty participants out of each age group of 6 to 11 years were studied. Then, stool samples were collected from the three groups over three consecutive days and the samples were fixed with Formalin Ether. After collection by SPSS version 17, the data were analyzed using the statistical tests chi- square student test and ANOVA.

Results: The overall prevalence of Giardia was 17%, of which the females and males were infected at 15% and 19%, respectively. Accordingly, there was no significant difference between the genders in terms of infection. In terms of health- coverage classification, giardiasis was observed at 10.6, 13.4 and 26.9 percent in good, fair and poor districts, respectively. According to forecasts, the prevalence of giardiasis was high in the districts with low health and economic state, and there was no statistically significant difference between age groups in terms of giardiasis.

Conclusion: The prevalence of Entamoeba histolytica was 0.5 percent which is consistent with that of other parts of Iran and other countries.

Key words: PARASITIC, DISEASES, ENTAMOEBA, HISTOLYTICA, GIARDIA