

Prevalence of Intestinal Parasitic Infections among Suspected Referred Patients to Reference Laboratory of Ilam, Iran

Ali Sohrab Nejad*¹; Sobhan Ghafurian²; Mostafa Akbari Qomi³; Norkhoda Sadeghifard²; Abbas Maleki²

1-Department of Public Health, University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

2-Clinical Microbiology Research Center, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

3-Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

sohrabi1354@yahoo.com

Background & Objectives: The aim of the present study was to estimate the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections among suspected referred patients to Reference laboratory of Ilam in the west of Iran during the period March 2010 to April 2010.

Methods: samples were collected from stool of 1600 suspected referred patients to Reference laboratory of Ilam in the west of Iran during the period March 2010 to April 2010. The stool samples were examined for intestinal parasites by direct microscopic.

Results: Intestinal parasites were detected by direct smear in 154 of 1600 (9.6%) suspected referred patients to the laboratory. At least one intestinal parasite was found in stool samples from 124 patients, two parasites in 27, and mixed infections with 3 or more parasites were seen in stool samples of 3 patients. The parasites were *Giardia intestinalis* 77 (50%), *Entamoeba histolytica/E. dispar* 19 (12.3%), and *Entamoeba coli* 36 (23.3%).

Conclusion: The results indicated that intestinal parasitic infections among patients in the study area are mainly water-borne. The prevalence of *E. histolytica/E. dispar* in the present study to base on microscopy examination was 1.18%. Presumably, the number of *E. histolytica* positive cases would be higher if all samples were tested by Molecular Methods. The ratio of *E. histolytica* to *E. dispar* found in this study was 1 to 3.5 is higher than the estimated global ratio of 1 to 10.

Keywords: Intestinal Parasitic Infections; *E. Histolytica*; Ilam