

Prevalence of Intestinal Parasitic Infections among Primary Schools aged Children in Ombda Locality

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Abstract

210 stool samples were collected from primary school children (100 male and 110 female). The stool samples were processed by wet preparation, formal ether concentration technique and saturated sugar flotation technique. The result revealed that out of 210 stool samples, 52 were found positive for intestinal parasites. This constituted an overall prevalence rate of 24.8%. The study revealed that the prevalence of intestinal parasites was 29% among males while it was 20.9% among females. The highest prevalence rate (35%) was reported among the 6-8 years age groups, while the lowest prevalence rate (10.3%) was reported among 12-14 years age groups. The prevalence rate of different parasites was as follow: *Giardia lamblia* (16.6%), *Hymenolepis nana* (6.7%), *Taenia species* (0.5%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (0.5%) and *Entamoeba histolytica* (0.5%). The prevalence of intestinal protozoa (17.1%) was higher than the intestinal helminthes (7.6%). The study showed that 23.3% were infected with single infection and 1.4% was infected with mixed infection. Formal ether concentration technique was considered as the gold standard in detection of intestinal parasites. The sensitivity and specificity of saturated sugar flotation technique were 75% and 100% respectively

Keywords: intestinal parasites, infection, school children.

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INTRODUCTION

Intestinal parasitic infections (IPIs) are among the most prevalent of human parasitic infections worldwide, causing significant morbidity and mortality. More than 3.5 billion people are affected, and that 450 million are ill as a result of these infections, the majorities are being children. Up to 250 million people are estimated to be infected with at least one or more species of intestinal nematodes in Sub-Saharan African countries. School age children and pregnant women are among the high risk groups for intestinal parasitic infections. These infections are also known as serious public health problems because the complications such as iron deficiency anemia, growth retardation in children and other physical and mental health problems with serious consequences may occur [1].

Intestinal parasitic infections are the main health problems which can cause mortality and morbidity among infected people. They are also associated with stunting of linear growth, physical weakness and low educational achievement in children.

Moreover, they cause iron deficiency anemia, loss of appetite and other physical and mental problems [2].

Gastrointestinal parasites (GIPs) and severity of its infections have a profound impact on human public health and development, affecting approximately one-third of the world's population, causing high mortality rate mostly in children [3].

Intestinal parasitosis, a major public health problem in developing countries is aggravated by hot and humid climate, poverty, malnutrition, high population density, and poor health. Multiple socio-economical, cultural, physiological and behavioral parameters along with illiteracy and poor sanitation influence intestinal parasitic infection [4].

Despite considerable effort to prevent and control intestinal parasitic infections but still remain endemic in many West African countries and Nigeria inclusive. the disease has a lot of significance and public health consequences with school age children according to an estimate, million are ill while billions

are already infected as a result of these neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) which mostly are school children in which the burden of morbidity and mortality are high in developing countries. Intestinal parasites and soil transmitted helminthes are common and affects the vulnerable group in the community such as children and pregnant women and the diseases are mostly found among the rural areas of the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Central America which are often associated with lack of safe water supply and poor sanitation mostly affected [5].

Clinical manifestation among children harboring these parasites include abdominal pain, nausea, reduced appetite, iron-deficiency anaemia, retarded growth and impaired cognitive performance [6]. Intestinal parasitic infestations are the most common consequences have been shown to cause nutritional status, physical development mental functions, and verbal ability and inhibition control aspects of cognitive behavior of the children [6]. Parasitic worms are the commonest infections particularly in children and adults, which estimates more than 3 billion worm infections in the world [7].

Rationale

Parasitic intestinal infection is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in developing world, no firm and consistent policy exists on the control of intestinal infections compared to policies already in place on diseases such as malaria and filariasis. Intestinal parasites have been shown to produce a detrimental effect on cognition and educational achievement in children.

OBJECTIVES

General objectives

To determine prevalence of intestinal parasites among the school children in Ombada locality, Khartoum state

Specific objectives

- To determine prevalence of intestinal parasites among the school children in the study area according to age and gender.
- To identify the types of parasites prevalent among the school children in the study areas.
- To compare between formal ether concentration technique and saturated sugar flotation technique.
- To identify the major intestinal parasites in the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Study design

Descriptive cross sectional study.

Study area

The study was performed in five primary schools in Ombada locality which is considered part of Omdurman city, Khartoum state.

Study population

The study was conducted on male and female primary schools children in Ombada locality.

Sample size

210 subjects were included in this study.

Ethical consideration

Informed consents were taken from all of the participants or their gardeners after explaining the nature of the study.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Statistical analysis was done using Chi-square to evaluate any association between parasitic infections.

Samples reception and processing

Sterile plastic containers were distributed which were labeled with the name and an assigned code to collect the samples; information and explanations were furnished to how they were to collect and transport the stool samples to the collection sites. The collection and transportation guidelines followed pre-analytical standard operating procedures (SOPs).

METHODOLOGY

Wet preparation

One drop of 0.85% NaCl was placed on the left side of the slide and 1 drop of iodine, (working solution) was placed on the right side of the slide. A very small amount of fecal specimen was taken (about the amount picked up on the end of an applicator stick when introduced into the specimen), and thoroughly the stool was emulsified in the saline and iodine preparations (use separate sticks for each). A cover slip (22 by 22 mm) was placed on each suspension. Both suspensions were systematically scanned with the 10 - objective. The entire cover slip area was examined. The 40 objective was used for more-detailed study. At least, one-third of the cover slip was examined with the 40 - objective, even if nothing suspicious has been seen.

Formal-ether concentration technique

One gram of stool specimen was added to 8ml of 10% formalin in a small beaker and thoroughly emulsified, and brought into suspension. Next the suspension was strained through a double layer of wet gauze directly into a 15 ml centrifuge tube and the gauze was then discarded. Then 3ml of diethyl ether was added to the suspension in the tube, rubber stopper and shaken vigorously for 10 seconds. The content was centrifuged by using swinging bucket at 2000rpm for 3 minutes; the supernatant (comprising the top 3 layers) was decanted; and then the deposit/sediment was resuspended with a disposable Pasteur pipette. A few drops of the suspension was transferred onto a microscope slide and covered with a cover slip. Finally the preparation was examined using the low power (X10) objective, and in a systematic manner as to observe the entire cover slip area. If an organism or suspicious objects are seen, the higher magnification (X 40objective) was used to observe its detailed morphology.

Saturated sugar flotation technique

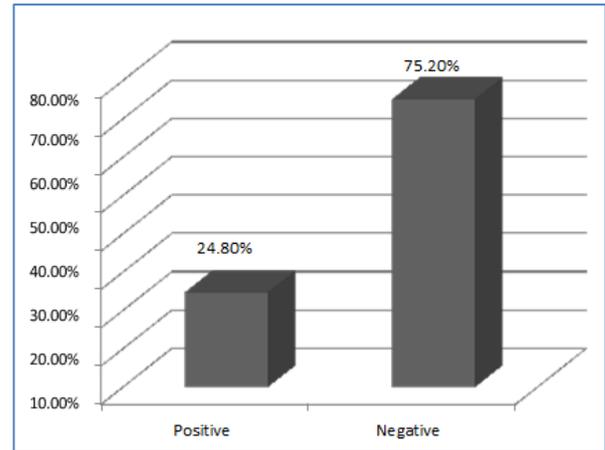
Sheather, s sugar solution was placed in cup. One gram of stool was added to solution. The fecal sample was mixed with the flotation solution. The fecal debris was screened to another cup. The filtered preparation was poured into a tube. Fecal flotation solution was added to the top of the tube .Cover slip was placed on the top of the tube. The tube was left undisturbed for 15 minutes and carefully the cover glass was placed on slide and examined microscopically.

RESULT

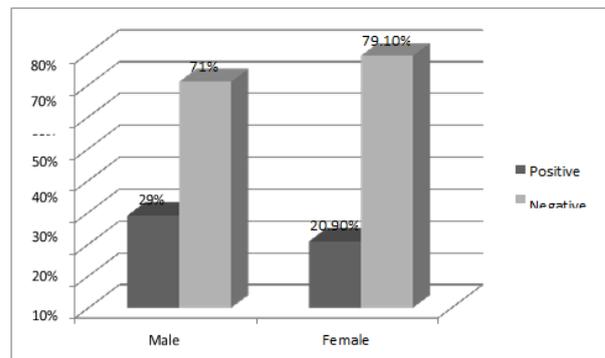
The results showed that out of 210 faecal samples examined, 52 were found positive for gastrointestinal parasites. This constituted an overall prevalence rate of 24.8%. The study revealed that the prevalence of intestinal parasites was increasing in male (29%) than female (20.9%).

The prevalence of different parasites was found as follows: *Giardia lambelia* (16.6%), *Hymenolepis nana* (6.7%), *Taenia spp* (0.5%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (0.5%), and *Entamoeba histolytica* (0.5%).

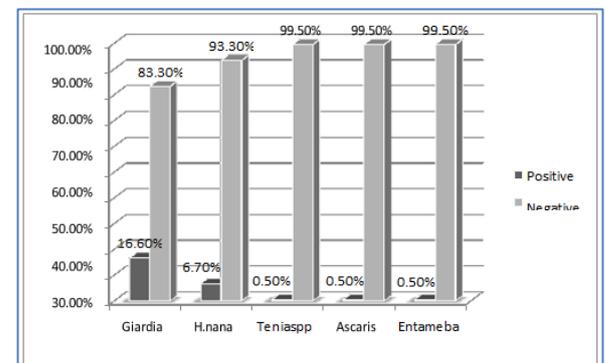
The prevalence of intestinal parasites by different parasitological techniques was as follow: 21.9% by direct preparation, 24.8% by formal ether concentration technique and 18.6% by saturated sugar flotation technique.



Graph-1: Showed the prevalence rate of intestinal parasites among primary schools aged children in Ombada locality



Graph-2: Showed the prevalence rate of intestinal parasites among primary schools children in Ombada locality according to gender



Graph-3: Showed distribution of different intestinal parasites detected among primary schools children in Ombada locality

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We conclude that formol ether centrifugation techniques are the best method to detect intestinal infections, which is more common in male group. Further studies should be done parasitic with large sample size and more diagnostic methods.

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