PARASITIC INFECTIONS: IS MALE AND FEMALE DIFFERENCE FOR ANEMIA AND GROWTH RETARDATION EVIDENT?

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Abstract

Parasitoses are the commonest health problem among school age children, which impair children's growth and development and causing anemia.

To detect the role of parasitic infections and both anemia and growth affection, on one hand, and if so the common complications among males and females on the other hand, a cross sectional descriptive study was carried out among the outpatient attended the Pediatrics Clinic, Al- Fayoum University's Hospitals. A total of 314 children aged from 1 to 13 years were subjected to clinical examination as well as stool analysis and CBC examination. The detected parasites were *Entameba histolytica, Giardia lamblia* (Protozoa) and *Enterobius vermicularis, Hymenolepis nana, Ascaris lambricoides* and *Ancylostoma duodenale* (Helminthes).

There was significance difference ($P<0.05$) between males and females regarding *E. histolytica* in females (60%) as to *G. lamblia* and *H. nana* in males (16.1%, & 11.5% respect-tively). Also, there was significance difference ($P<0.05$) between males and females regarding to hemoglobin level, and weight percentiles with anemia (92%) and underweight& borderline weight (34.5%) in males. The overall anemia was 89.8%. However, there was no significance difference ($P<0.05$) regarding to height percentiles.

Keywords*:* Al-Fayoum, Parasitic infected children, Males, Females, Growth retardation, Anemia