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Pattern of intestinal parasitic infection among children attending the pediatric outpatient clinic of Al Fayoum university hospital

Abstract

Aim: The study was conducted to describe the pattern and identify association with some sociodemographic variables among children with intestinal parasitic infection at the pediatric outpatient clinic of Al Fayoum university hospital.

Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out from June ٢٠٠٩ to June ٢٠١٠ in the pediatric outpatient clinic of Al Fayoum university hospital. A total of ٧٠٠ children aged ٦ months to ١٤ years were enrolled in the study. The data were collected using a structured interview questionnaire and laboratory analysis of fecal specimens.

Results: The results showed that ٦٨.٨% of children had intestinal parasitic infection. The most common parasites identified were *Entamebia histolytica* (٣٤.١%), *Enterobius vermicularis* (١٧.١%), *Giardia lamblia* (١٠.٣%) and only ٠ % of children had multiple parasites. Significant associations with parasitic infections were: Male, children older than ٣ years and families of low social class.

Conclusion: Intestinal parasitic infection is an important public health problem and constitutes the major cause of seeking medical care among children with gastrointestinal and/or general manifestations at pediatric outpatient clinic. It is necessary to develop effective prevention and control strategies at a community level and proper infection control measures at a hospital level.

Key words: Cross sectional study, intestinal parasitic infection, children, Al Fayoum.