SCREENING OF INTESTINAL PARASITIC INFECTIONS AMONG FOOD HANDLERS

*Ramakrishnaiah Y., Ketha Ravindra Reddy and Bhuvana Rachangan
Department of Dermatology, Sri Lakshmi Narayana Institute of Medical Sciences (Affiliated to Bharath University, Chennai), Osudu, Pondicherry
*Author for Correspondence

INTRODUCTION
Intestinal parasitic infections remain as an important public health problem in developing countries like India. The effects of intestinal parasitic infestations vary with their species and the intensity of the infections (Khalid et al., 2001). The infections usually acquired through ingestion of contaminated food or water as a result of poor sanitation and hygiene. Transmission also occurs as a result of close contact between infected and uninfected individuals as in food handlers and consumers respectively. So our study is aimed to screen the food handlers for parasitic infections (Zaglool et al., 2011).

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Methodology
Design of the Study: A Prospective Study
Stool samples (n= 50) were collected from the food handlers working in our hospital canteen, hostel mess, and road side canteens and few hotels in and around Pondicherry. The Screening has been done by direct wet mount, Iodine mount for Protozoal and Helminthic parasites and modified acid fast staining for Cryptosporidium.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

![Parasites detected among Food handlers](image)

*Figure 1: Parasites detected among food handlers*
Out of the 50 food handlers screened, 21 (41%) were infected with intestinal parasites and 7 different intestinal parasites were detected from food handlers and are as follows: Entamoeba histolytica 5 (10%), Giardia lamblia 4 (8%), Ancylostoma duodenale 4 (8%), Entamoeba coli 3 (6%), Trichuris trichiura 2 (4%), Dientamoeba fragilis 1 (2%), Cryptosporidium parvum 2 (4%) and only one sample had multiple parasitic infestations (Nada et al., 2011).

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, food safety education is a critical prerequisite, and in general, health education and awareness about personal hygiene and transmission of parasitic infections is given to them (Muktikesh et al., 2013). So we are in need of constant epidemiological surveillance through periodical surveys by doing periodic stool examination for parasitic infestations is also emphasized to the food handlers and is a valuable tool in the prevention of transmission. Infected persons are also treated thereby transmission of infection will be prevented.

**REFERENCES**


