

Intestinal Parasitic (Including *Cryptosporidium*) Infections in Day-Care Centres

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Objectives: To investigate the importance of the intestinal parasites including *Cryptosporidium* in children of day-care centres as a cause of enteric infections and risk of spread to close contacts of infected children.

Methods: Stool samples were collected from 43 children attending the day-care centres, 10 personnel of the centres and 55 household contacts of the children. Direct smear method and then formalin-ether sedimentation method were carried out for all stool samples to detect intestinal parasites. Fecal smears were prepared from the sediment and stained by the modified Ziehl-Neelsen method for the recovery of red-pink oocysts of *Cryptosporidium*.

Results: Thirty-one (72%) children were found to be infected for intestinal parasites compared to 1 (10%) positive personnel and 19 (34.5%) positive household contacts of the children. *Cryptosporidium* oocysts were found to be excreted in 4 (9%) children compared to 4 (7.2%) household contacts. No single positive case was recovered among the examined personnel of the day-care centres.

Conclusion: The present report provided useful information on the seasonal occurrence, patterns of transmission and risk of spread to close contacts of infected children. The roles of children and staff in the transmission of parasitic diseases would contribute to the development of effective prevention and control measures in child care centres.