Poster Presentation 3

Intestinal parasitic infections in primary school children in Mahiyangana district.

Authors *T.G.A.N. Chandrasena[1] R.P. Morel [2] C, de Alwis[3], H.P. Sudusinghe[1], N.R. de Silva[1,]*

1., Dept. of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
2. Dept. of Parasitology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenapura
3.Consultant Paediatrician, District Hospital, Mahiyangana

Objective: To study the prevalence of intestinal parasites in primary school children belonging to the Veddah and Sinhalese communities in Mahiyangana area.

Methodology: Saline smears, modified Kato Katz smears and Harada Mori cultures were performed on stool samples collected from school children attending years 1-3 at Dambana Kanishta Vidyalaya (mostfy Veddah) and Wewatta Kanishta Vidyalaya (mostly Sinhalese).

Results: Stool samples of 64 children (27 males, 37 females) of 107 registered at Dambana and 81 children (36 males, 45 females) of 146 registered at Wewatta were screened for intestinal parasites. The mean age of the study population was 8.3 years (range 6-15 years). One or more intestinal parasites were detected in 43.7% (28/64) and 32.09% (26/81) at Dambana and Wewatta respectively, as shown the Table.

Parasites	Damban	Wewatta
Hookworm ova	13(20.3%	12(14.8%)
Enterobius vermicularis ova	2(3.1%)	1(1.2%)
Giardia lamblia cysts	5 (7.8%)	5 (6.2%)
Entamoebacoli cysts	5(7.8%)	4 (4.9%)
Blastocystis hominis	11(17.2%	14(17.3%)
no parasites	36(56.3%	55(67.9%)

The hookworm egg counts (modified Kato Katz) ranged from 48 -70 80 epg faeces . The Harada Mori cultures were positive in 16/25 stool samples. A total of 57 L3 larvae were seen, all were *Necator americanus.*

Conclusion: There was a high prevalence of *Giardia* and *Blastocystis* infections in both communities, with the predominant helminth being *N.americanus.* Other geohelminth infections were scarce in this rural population.