

## The Prevalence of Intestinal Parasitic Infections in Primary School Students in Gorgan, Iran

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### Abstract

**Background&Objectives:** High prevalence of parasitic infections can be the result of the subclinical infections. Some regular and ongoing epidemiological studies are needed to combat and control these infections. This study was conducted on elementary school students to achieve an overview of the spread of parasitic infections in Gorgan.

**Material & Methods:** In this cross-sectional study, using random cluster sampling, 800 of 7-12 year-old students were selected from 18 primary schools in Gorgan. The stool samples taken on three consecutive days were examined by two methods including direct smear and formalin-ether concentration.

**Results:** Overall, 230 (28.8%) are infected by intestinal parasites. The protozoa are *Blastocystis hominis* (122; 15/2%), *Entamoeba coli* (93; 11/6%), *Giardia intestinalis* (79; 9.9%), and *Entamoeba histolytic* (8; 1%). The Helminthes are *Hymenolepis nana* (12; 1.5%), *Entrobium vermicularis* (10; 1.2%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* in 4 (0.5%) and hook worms (3; 0.4).

**Conclusion:** Based on the results, the prevalence of intestinal parasites is quite high among primary school students especially in families with low education level, income and sanitary level. Hence, it is a necessity to promote the hygienic knowledge of the students .

**Key words:** Prevalence, Intestinal parasites, Primary schools students, Gorgan