



## Intestinal Parasites Prevalence and Related Factors

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### ABOUT THE STUDY

Intestinal parasite infections are one of the most common types of illnesses in the globe. Epidemiological studies in several nations have revealed that an individual's social and economic position is a significant factor in the occurrence of intestinal parasites. Epidemiological data on the incidence of various intestinal parasite illnesses as well as the identification of local risk factors in particular countries and locales are required to establish effective control methods.

Low levels of education, poor health habits, malnutrition, polluted food and/or water, climate, population increase, socioeconomic and health situations and intimate contact with animals have all been linked to the occurrence of intestinal parasite diseases. Intestinal parasite illnesses are one of the most common infectious diseases with a strong link to personal and public cleanliness.

Irritable bowel syndrome's aetiopathogenesis could be influenced by the gut microbiota. We investigated the function of intestinal parasites in primary care patients with IBS aged 18–50 years old by defining the epidemiology and risk factors for infection. 138 patients at baseline and 78/116 patients returning one year later submitted faecal samples for microscopy.

The main causes of about 800 million estimated cases of diarrheal occurrences and 4.5 million deaths in poorer nations are a lack of adequate water supply and poor environmental sanitation conditions. The risk of parasitic infections, disease transmission and associated morbidity and mortality are influenced by behavioural, biological, environmental, socio-economic, health-systems factors and local conditions such as the quality of household income, employment, occupational, and social characteristics, domestic and village infrastructure. Infection with pathogenic intestinal protozoa and helminths causes significant morbidity, malnutrition and mortality around the world, especially among young children in impoverished nations and immune-compromised people.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 24% of individuals worldwide are infected with Intestinal Parasite

Infections (IPIs) with the bulk of these diseases occurring in underdeveloped nations. These illnesses are among the most frequent in the globe with Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, China, South India and South America being the most endemic places. For parasite quantity and identification, traditional microscopic inspection remains the gold standard. This method is less efficient in distinguishing species with comparable characteristics. A molecular method such as the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) has been widely employed to improve parasite detection and differentiation in order to deliver a more accurate diagnosis due to its increased sensitivity and specificity.

Intestinal parasites cause a wide range of symptoms in persons who are infected, the most common of which are gastrointestinal difficulties and general weakness. Inflammation of the small and/or large intestine, diarrhoea/dysentery, stomach aches and nausea/vomiting are all gastrointestinal diseases. Reduced micronutrient absorption, loss of appetite, weight loss and intestinal blood loss which can lead to anaemia is all symptoms that have a negative impact on nutritional status. Physical and behavioural impairments as well as delayed growth in children and skin irritation around the anus and vulva are all possible side effects.

Children living in the poorest neighbourhoods in developing countries have the highest prevalence of intestinal parasites. Consumption of contaminated water, infected soil, inadequate sanitation and hygiene and incorrect hygiene are the most common causes of intestinal parasites. Lack of access to facilities for the safe disposal of human waste in particular can lead to intestinal parasites and sickness. In addition, poor hygiene habits and a lack of hygiene resources such as hand washing facilities have a negative impact on disease rates. Eating raw fruit, soil-eating behaviour and a lack of adequate drinking water can all lead to parasitic contamination.

Parasites can enter the intestines through the mouth through uncooked or unwashed food contaminated water or hands or skin contact with larva-infected soil. In some situations, they can even be transmitted by the germs migrate into the intestines after being ingested, where they can proliferate and cause

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symptoms. Children are especially vulnerable if they are not completely cleaned after coming into touch with infectious soil which can be found in places they frequent such as sandboxes and school playgrounds. Drinking water from sources that may be polluted with parasites that invade the gastrointestinal tract puts people in underdeveloped countries at risk.

To kill parasites in the host, drugs are frequently used. Turpentine was commonly utilised in the past but newer

medications do not directly poison intestinal worms. Anthelmintic medications currently work by inhibiting an enzyme that the worm needs to produce the chemical that protects the worm from being digested. Tapeworms are normally treated with a drug that is taken by mouth. Praziquantel is the most widely prescribed tapeworm treatment.