

Prevalence of pathogenic intestinal parasites among preschool children in Al-Medina district, Saudi Arabia.

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The prevalence of pathogenic intestinal parasites among preschool children in Al-Medina district, Saudi Arabia, was determined through a randomized multistage sampling of 8000 preschool children. Duplicate specimens from each child were examined using a simple sedimentation technique. The overall prevalence of intestinal parasites among children screened was 18.4%. The most common parasite isolated was *Giardia lamblia* (14.5%). This was followed by *Entamoeba histolytica* (2.7%), *Enterobius vermicularis* (1.4%), *Ascaris lumbricoides* (1.0%) and others. Out of the 1462 children positive for parasites, 183 (12.5%) had mixed parasitic infections. Prevalence among preschool children was highly associated with older age, rural residence, non-municipal water supply, inadequate latrine type, low level of parental education, abdominal pain, and diarrhea.

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