ECHINOCOCCOSIS IS AN EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The study was launched to observe the prevalence ratio of *Echinococcus granulosus* (*E.granulosus*) infection (echinococcosis / hydatidosis) in hospital registered patients (0.25 %) ($P<0.001$) and (0.72 %) ($P<0.001$) in soil samples contaminated by dog's faeces in urban areas of Lahore, Punjab from Nov 2006 to Oct 2008. Area wise prevalence of infected patients in six urban areas of Lahore, Punjab province indicated the infection was highest in Allama Iqbal Town and Wapda Town (0.50 %) followed by Gulberg (0.33 %), Samanabad (0.17 %) and declined to zero in Valancia Town and Cantt respectively, in soil samples areawise high prevalence was observed 1.33 % in Wapda Town and Gulberg whereas the lowest 0.17 % in Valancia Town and Cantt respectively. Statistically prevalence was significantly higher in autumn (0.83 %) ($P<0.001$) followed by (0.17 %) ($P<0.01$) in summer and winter as compared to zero percent in spring. In soil samples the highest month wise prevalence (1 %) in August and September that gradually decreased (0.33 %) in November and declined to zero in March of urban areas. When statistical analysis (Z-test) was applied on month wise data, prevalence of the month of the March was the lowest, so the month of March was compared with other months. Demographic data showed 33 % male and 67 % female had habit of eating raw vegetables, 58.69 had contact to pet dogs and 62.78 % were involved in farming, 77.69 % male were fond of eating sheep liver, 41.31 % contacted dogs.

KEYWORDS: Urban, Pakistan, Prevalence, Definitive Host, Hydatidosis