IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND PARASITIC INFECTION ON HEMOGLOBIN LEVEL AMONG CHILDREN IN UM-UNNASSER VILLAGE, GAZA STRIP

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Abstract

Across-sectional study was conducted to examine the impact of socioeconomic conditions and intestinal parasitic infection (IPI) on hemoglobin level among children aged between 2-15 years of Um-Unnasser village North Gaza. The data were collected using structured questionnaire and laboratory analysis of blood and fecal samples. The results showed that of 256 children, 25% were anemic and prevalence was higher in children aged below six years. Overall prevalence of intestinal parasitic infection was 46.9%, Ascaris lumbricoides (11.3%), Giardia lamblia (8.2%), Hymenolopis nana (6.2%), Entamoeba histolytic (5.1%), Strongyloides stercoralis (2.0%), Enterobius vermicularis (2.7%), Trichurus trichiura (0.3%) most frequently found, whereas, (10.9%) of children had multiple parasitic infection. There was an association between some socioeconomic conditions and parasitic infection and anemia. These socio-economic factors included age group of the studied children, father education and work. It was found that Children with double parasitic infection had lower hemoglobin level than those who had single parasitic infections except in Ascaris lumbricioides and Giardia lamb.