

1/10 MED LAB TP
**TITLE: A STUDY OF THE PREVALENCE OF BRUCELLOSIS AMONG
PATIENT ATTENDING KITALE DISTRICT HOSPITAL.**

PRESENTER: EDWIN MACHANJA

COLLEGE NO: 106/00290

COURSE CODE: Hs 304106

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH SCIENCE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

**INSTITUTION: THE KENYA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE.**

**THIS PROJECT IS SUBMITTED TO THE KENYA POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN THE PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL LABORATORY
TECHNOLOGY.**

SUPERVISOR: MR. KIBE NJOROGE.

EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER SERIES.

ABSTRACT

Brucellosis is a disease caused by gram negative intracellular cocobacilli bacteria of brucella species. It occurs world wide but majorly in developing countries including Kenya where about 40% of the entire population suffers from brucellosis. It is a disease affecting mainly dairy farmers, being transmitted through ingestion, skin contact with infected animal or mucus membrane. The study was carried out in Kitale District Hospital with the objective of determining the prevalence and cause of brucellosis in relation to age, and occupation and to find out the commonest species in the region.

The prevalence of brucellosis in Trans-Nzoia District has increased over the years which has led to the necessity of researching and studying on the disease. The most affected sex were females due to the fact that traditionally, they spent most of their times in close contact with the animals for example when milking or collecting cow dung for smearing the floors of their homes. Adults were most affected than children probably in occupation and tradition. Regarding occupations with risk of contracting the disease that is slaughter house workers, butchers and wool sorters. The prevalence was quite high probably due to safety measures for example wearing of protective clothing, not being adhered to.

A total of 500 patients were screened for brucellosis between November 2007 and February 2008. Among them, 80% were found to be positive, 90% being adults and 10% being children.

The most common species was *Brucella melitensis*.