

8/10 MED LAB TP

PREVALENCE OF *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM PARVUM* AMONGST
DIARRHOEIC PATIENTS ADMITTED AT KENYATTA
NATIONAL HOSPITAL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Cryptosporidium is a coccidian protozoan pathogen that causes a diarrhoeal illness called cryptosporidiosis. The disease is mostly self-limiting in healthy individuals but its life threatening in immunosuppressed persons like those with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and children where diarrhea is watery and profuse.

The study was carried out at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) for periods of six months from February to August 2008 .A total sample of two hundred and sixty six (266) were collected processed and examined.

The study was aimed at determining the occurrence of *cryptosporidium parvum* and its infection rate in relation to age and sex, the prevalence rate was highest among the young age –group 0-15 years and in females. This was probably due to low immunity in young children and the fact that there were more females admitted than males.

Cryptosporidium parvum had the hugest prevalence compared to all other parasitic infections. Clinically, cryptosporidiosis could not be distinguished from giardiasis and the other enteropathogens, making the demonstration of organism using modified ziehl-Neelsen staining technique necessary.

It was observed that the infection rate was higher in females than in males. This was probably due to the fact that there were more females admitted than males. The infection rate was also higher in younger children which could have been attributed by their low body immunity and overcrowding in the paediatric ward.