

Intestinal Parasitic Infections among Diabetic Patients in Beni-Suef Governorate

ABSTRACT

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disease that put the individual at immune-suppression state. The present study aimed to detect common intestinal parasitic infections in diabetic patients in comparison with non-diabetic individuals as a control group and to estimate the risk factors involved in the acquisition of intestinal parasitic infection. Stool samples (100 diabetic patients and 100 healthy controls) were collected and subjected to direct smear examination, concentration techniques, permanent staining by modified Ziehl-Neelsen and modified trichrome stains and culture on Nutrient agar plates. The results showed that prevalence of intestinal parasites was higher in diabetic patients (44%) than control group (32%) with non-significant value except for *Microsporidia spp.* Among diabetic patients, intestinal parasitic infections were statistically significant in patients aged ≥ 41 years old, living in rural areas, with uncontrolled and complicated diabetes. Intestinal parasites were highly associated with diarrhea and flatulence in the diabetic patients. So diabetic patients should be screened routinely for intestinal parasites especially opportunistic ones and treated for their overall well-being.

Key words: Diabetes mellitus; Immunocompromised; Intestinal parasites; Opportunistic infections.