Prevalence of intestinal parasites and bacteria among food handlers in a tertiary care hospital


Abstract:

A cross-sectional study was conducted in the kitchen of a tertiary care hospital from February 2 to 27, 2009. Two hundred food handlers who did not take treatment for any intestinal element within 3 months prior to the study were included. The stool samples were examined for intestinal parasites following direct microscopic examination, formal ether concentration, and staining with modified acid fast staining technique. Fingernail materials were examined microscopically for enteropathogenic bacteria and paras. For enteropathogenic bacteria samples were inoculated on to MacConkey, deoxycholate citrate agar, xylose lysine deoxycholate agar as in the WHO protocol. The finding emphasized the importance of food handlers as potential sources of infections and suggested health institutions for appropriate hygienic and sanitary control measures.

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