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A study on seroprevalence of anti toxocariasis antibody (IgG) among farm workers in Shahrekord and investigation of stock farm soils for *Toxocara canis* egg

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Background & Aim: Toxocariasis is one of the most common zoonotic parasitic diseases with worldwide distribution mainly caused by *Toxocara canis* and *Toxocara cati*. *Toxocara canis* is the most common intestinal nematode of dogs and etiologic agent of visceral larva migrant syndrome; whereas, Shahrekord is located on husbandry area and there are few studies on husbandry jobs and soil of farms and toxocariasis. This study aimed to investigate isolation of *Toxocara* eggs from stock farms soil and also to find seroprevalence of anti-*Toxocara* antibody in farm workers in Shahrekord by using ELISA method.

Materials & Methods: In this case-control study, 203 blood samples as cases and 120 blood samples as control were obtained. Also 150 samples of soil stock farms were collected. The presence of anti-*Toxocara* antibody (IgG) was tested using ELISA method. The presence of *Toxocara canis* egg in soil specimens were investigated by flotation method using sodium nitrate. Data was entered in SPSS version 16 software and for analysis; independent T test, Mann-Whitney test and exact Fisher's test were performed.

Results: from 150 soil specimens, nine soil specimens had *Toxocara canis* egg. Out of 203 specimens in case group, six (3%) were positive for toxocariasis, but two cases (1/7%) had anti toxocariasis antibody in control group.

Conclusion: The results of the study showed that soil specimens of the farms were infected with *Toxocara* eggs. These findings will increase our knowledge in planning zoonosis disease control such as toxocariasis.

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