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**Original Article
Changing trend in prevalence of intestinal parasites in patients attending a tertiary care hospital in Lucknow**

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**-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------Abstract**

**Background:** Intestinal parasitic infections are one of the commonest causes of morbidity in third world countries including, India. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of common intestinal parasitic infections in relation to demographic details of patients, attending a tertiary care hospital in Lucknow.

 **Materials and Methods:** A retrospective study was conducted from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014 in the Department of Microbiology, of Integral Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Dasauli, Kursi road, Lucknow. A total of 755 samples from patients attending the OPD and IPD of the hospital with gastrointestinal symptoms were included in the study.

**Results:** Out of total 755 samples, 133 (17.6%) samples were found to be positive for at least one parasite. Entamoeba histolytica was the most common parasite (9.3%) followed by Blastocystis hominis (3.3%), Giardia lambia (3%), Ascaris lumbricoides (1.3%), Ancylostoma duodenale (0.4%) and Hymenolepis nana (0.3%).Infectionwas more common in males (10%) than females (7.55%), 21-40 yrs. age group (40%).

**Conclusion:** Intestinal parasitic infection is quite high and intestinal protozoa are more common than helminths in our study. We are first to report high prevalence of B. hominis in stool samples from North India. This study emphasizes the need to study further the reasons behind decrease in prevalence of helminthic intestinal parasites along with health education, good sanitation, personal hygiene, and health awareness to decrease prevalence of intestinal protozoa.