

clinical study must be done before conclusive statements can be made concerning the effects of multivitamin therapy on respiratory infections in the aged, results of the study suggest three things:

CONCLUSIONS

1. Vitamin deficiency in the aged is more frequent than is generally supposed.

2. Vitamin deficiency is among the factors which play an important part in the susceptibility of the aged to respiratory infections.

3. Adequate amounts of vitamins afford marked prophylactic benefits, and multivitamin therapy, besides having general beneficial effects upon the aged, provides a useful weapon in our fight to prevent respiratory infections in the old people.

Incidence of Intestinal Parasites in a Tropical Area of Brazil*

Figures Based on the Examination of the Stools of 2,500 Patients

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FEW data are available in Brazilian literature regarding intestinal parasitism in this area of the country: Belo Horizonte and neighborhood (1, 2, 3). Hence the interest of this communication in which I have noted down the commonest intestinal parasites in this tropical region according to their percentage.

MATERIAL

This article is organized on the basis of the results of stool examinations of two thousand five hundred patients from all social classes made during four years in Laboratório Carlos Chagas, in the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

METHODS

In nearly all the patients an examination was also made after concentration of cysts and eggs. For this the Hoffmann, Pons and Janer's sedimentation method

TABLE I

PROTOZOA	Infected Patients	Percentage
Endamoeba histolytica	259	10.3
Endamoeba coli	621	24.8
Endolimax nana	58	2.3
Iodamoeba bütschlii	11	0.4
Giardia intestinalis	251	10.0
Chilomastix mesnili	155	6.2
Trichomonas hominis	36	1.4
Balantidium coli	4	0.16

(4) was employed. A few times, however, De Rivas's (5) and Faust and associates' (6) methods were used.

RESULTS

Data of stool examination of two thousand five hundred patients are shown in Tables I and II.

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CONCLUSIONS

The commonest protozoa found by stool examinations of two thousand five hundred patients were *E. coli* (twenty-four and eight-tenths per cent), *E. histolytica* (ten and four-tenths per cent), *G. intestinalis* (ten per cent) and *C. mesnili* (six and two-tenths per cent).

The most frequent helminths in the above two thousand five hundred patients were *T. trichiura*

TABLE II

METAZOA	Infected Patients	Percentage
<i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i>	489	19.5
<i>Necator americanus</i>	366	14.6
<i>Trichuris trichiura</i>	513	20.5
<i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i>	217	8.6
<i>Enterobius vermicularis</i>	73	2.9
<i>Taenia, sp</i>	23	0.9
<i>Hymenolepis nana</i>	1	0.04
<i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>	100	4.0

(twenty and a half per cent), *A. lumbricoides* (nineteen and a half per cent), *N. americanus* (fourteen and six-tenths per cent), *S. stercoralis* (eight and six-tenths per cent) and *S. mansoni* (four per cent).

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