

PREVALENCE AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH STRONGYLOIDES STERCORALIS INFECTION AMONG FARM AND DOGHOUSE WORKERS

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A serological survey of 120 farm and doghouse workers in Southern Italy found a 5% prevalence of *Strongyloides stercoralis* infection, with post-treatment assessment suggesting symptom improvement in abdominal pain, urticaria, and asthma.

KEY POINTS

- Among 120 farm and doghouse workers screened in the Bari county area using ELISA testing, 6 tested positive for *Strongyloides stercoralis* (5% prevalence), including 2 doghouse workers.
- Abdominal pain was the most frequent symptom at baseline, occurring in 3 of 6 seropositive patients (50%), followed by urticaria and asthma in 2 patients each.
- Following single-dose Ivermectin therapy (200 µg/kg), all patients with abdominal pain experienced resolution, urticaria resolved completely in one patient and improved in another, and asthma cleared fully in one of two affected patients.
- A non-statistically significant trend toward eosinophil count reduction was observed, from median 190/mm³ (IQR 140-240) to 180/mm³ (IQR 150-220), p=0.14.
- The authors conclude that prevalence is low in this Southern Italian region and that therapy may help reduce severity of symptoms including abdominal pain, asthma, and urticaria.

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