THE CHARACTERISTICS OF STRONGYLOIDES STERCORALIS INFECTION: A SINGLE-CENTER EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM

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A retrospective study of 163 strongyloidiasis cases at a Vietnamese tertiary center found the infection predominantly affected older immunocompromised males with gastrointestinal symptoms, hypereosinophilia, and hypoalbuminemia, with excellent response to ivermectin in most cases.

KEY POINTS

- The study reviewed 163 patients diagnosed with Strongyloides stercoralis infection from 2018 to 2022, with a median age of 68 years and 73% male predominance.
- Immunocompromised status was present in 64.4% of cases, with long-term steroid use being the most prominent risk factor at 23.3%.
- The most common symptoms were fatigue (76.7%), abdominal pain (63.2%), nausea (50.3%), and diarrhea (46%).
- Laboratory findings included hypereosinophilia in more than half of cases, hypoalbuminemia in 57.1%, and severe hyponatremia in 17.3%; larvae were detected in stool in 66% and serology was positive in 74.7%.
- Chronic strongyloidiasis accounted for 92.6% of cases, with excellent response to ivermectin treatment in 89.6% of patients; the authors conclude strongyloidiasis should be suspected in immunocompromised patients with gastrointestinal symptoms and eosinophilia or hypoalbuminemia.

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