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Diagnosis of toxocariasis in patients with allergic diseases

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Toxocariasis is a disease of humans caused by larvae (immature worms) of either the dog roundworm (*Toxocara canis*) or the cat roundworm (*Toxocara cati*). Toxocariasis is often called visceral larva migrans. 30 patients aged 21 to 55 years (men-17, women-13) were under our supervision. 19 of them were in the in-patient department of the specialized allergological center, 11 patients were treated in outpatient clinics allergological center and republic infectious diseases clinic. Collecting epidemiological history, we asked about the presence of an animal in the house, especially the dogs and the presence of pectism (geophagia). Clinical and laboratory examination were carried out. Serological testing for toxocariasis was performed at the laboratory of immunology of parasites, by using ELISA test system toxocara-strip. Positive results were received in six (20.0%) patients from 30 examined patients. The frequency of major clinical manifestations of toxocariasis was presented as follows: manifestations of allergic skin rash - three (50.0%), astheno-vegetative syndrome - in four (66.6%), intoxication syndrome - in five (82.3%), pulmonary syndrome in one (16.6%), enlargement of lymph nodes - two (33.3%). In peripheral blood eosinophilia were found in five (82.3%) patients. Based on epidemiological analysis it was established that the key risk factors for infection with *T. canis* are existence of geophagia and/or contact with a dog (79%). These data coincide with the literature data. The most frequently toxocariasis was diagnosed in patients with allergic skin rash (50.0%), astheno-vegetative syndrome (66.6%), intoxication syndrome (82.5%) and high titers of antibodies to *T. canis*.

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