

Knowledge about intestinal parasitosis of responsible adults for school children in Niterói, RJ.

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Intestinal parasites represent a public health problem, predominantly in populations of low socioeconomic level, with precarious health and hygiene conditions. The low knowledge about it is considered as a risk factor for the acquisition of these infections. The aim of this study was to evaluate the knowledge of those adults responsible for school children about intestinal parasites. A questionnaire with four questions was applied: "Do you know what intestinal parasites are?", "Do you have information on how to get intestinal parasites?", "Do you know any examples of intestinal parasites?" "How do you avoid catching intestinal parasites?" to the participants. The responses were classified as adequate, partially adequate / incomplete and inadequate. The study was conducted in the period from September to November 2016, with 76 responsible adults for children of two Municipal Schools located in Niterói, RJ. Considering the definition of intestinal parasites, 28 (36.84%) participants responded incompletely, 1 indicating that they were "helminths in the intestine" and 27 as worms and/or roundworms. Of the participants, 46 (60.52%) answered "I don't know" and 2 (2.63%) responded inadequately. About the examples, the parasites cited were: amoeba, solitary, tapeworm, pinworm, amebiasis, ascariasis, roundworm and giardia. Eight people exemplified as "worm". One person replied incorrectly that they were "fungi and bacteria" and 47 (61,84%) did not know examples. Considering the transmission, 29 (38,15%) people responded correctly, citing poor hygiene, contaminated water, low sanitary conditions and badly washed foods; four responded in a correct-incorrect way, citing poor hygiene associated with "eating candy" or "bacteria". About the prevention, 38 (50%) knew at least one correct form of prevention, citing: washing hands, washing foods and drinking filtered water. Eighteen people could not answer. Of the participants, 29 (38,15%) did not answer or answered wrongly the four questions and 5 (6,57%) answered only one question. The results showed that those responsible adults for schoolchildren knew some information about intestinal parasitosis, but the information was fragmented. The absence of more consistent information represents a risk for the acquisition of intestinal parasitosis by themselves and by children. This fact demonstrates the need to implement educational health actions at school, not only for children, but also for those responsible adults, promoting prevention and a healthier life for all.