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Isolation of parasitic ova from different locations in Karachi: potential source of the infection through the Pakistani currency

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Background: Parasitological ova are usually associated with food spoilage, but they may also produce toxins, thus their presence on bank notes and on coins is also undesirable causing serious illness especially the respiratory disease, diarrhea and the itching wound of anal area to children and parasitic infection. Study is designed to provide the first insight and add to the limited body of literature on microbial contamination of currency (Pakistan currency circulating in country, papers as well as coins currency) and to address growing community concerns about the risk associated with microbial contamination and handling of money in the country.

Objectives: To identify the common pathogens residual on circulating Pakistan's currency. To take the effective measure regarding bio-safety in Pakistan currency circulating in Pakistan.

Setting & Study Duration: Study was conducted at Microbiology Department Basic Medical Sciences Institute (BMSI), Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre and Microbiology Department SIUT, Karachi. Study period was from 4.3.2010 to 31.1.2011.

Material & Methods: Total 720 samples were taken from different locations i.e. bank counter 243, ATM machine 50, food seller 94, medical store 35 samples, milk seller 92, grocery shop 63, meat shop 80, road side mechanic 36, bus conductor 4 and beggars' 23. All the specimens were grouped according to currency denominations (Group I –IX) and all specimens were processed according to standard methods.

Result: The ova of *A. lumbricoidis* were isolated in higher number that is 25.9% (187) of the 720 sample, along with the isolation of *E.vermicularis* 60 (8.3%) and *Tinea saginata* 23 (3.19%).

Biography

Maria Jawed has completed her M.Phil from Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences. She has published 10 papers in reputed journals. Her area of research interest includes diagnostic Pathology.

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