

Prevalence of *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* Infection in Cattle, Sheep and Goat in Gilan Province

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Background

Dicrocoelium dendriticum is common parasites of herbivores in many parts of Iran. In chronic infections, this parasite causes biliary cirrhosis in liver of cattle, sheep or goat and lead to economic losses. The main aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* in cattle, sheep and goat in Northern Areas of Iran, Gilan Province.

Methods

This cross-sectional survey was carried out in the slaughterhouses of different localities in eastern and western areas of Gilan province. About 200 cattle, sheep and goat livers were examined.

Results

The prevalence of liver infection was 85, 66 and 23.25% in sheep, cattle and goats, respectively. There was significant difference between animals liver infection ($p < 0.001$). Western Gilan showed more prevalence of *Dicrocoelium infection* as compared with eastern Gilan ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusion

Our findings indicate that infection with *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* is very common in sheep and cattle and requires intervention to treat the infected animals.