

Original article**UDC: 616.995.1:616.34]:614.3(497.11)
doi:10.5633/amm.2017.0308**

PREVALENCE OF GIARDIASIS IN ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE CITY OF NIŠ

Nataša Miladinović Tasić¹, Nikola Đorđević², Dragan Zdravković¹, Aleksandar Tasić¹

Giardiasis/Lambliasis is a disease caused by the presence of *Giardia lamblia* (*G. lamblia*) in the upper portions of the human digestive tract (DT). Our aim in this paper was to determine the prevalence of giardiasis/lambliasis in asymptomatic individuals subject to sanitary supervision in the territory of the city of Niš.

We performed a retrospective analysis of stool sample test results of individuals without any symptoms of a digestive tract infection (January 2004 - December 2014) using conventional microscopy (CVM). The results were subsequently statistically analyzed.

The study group (341650) consisted of people subject to sanitary supervision. By way of CVM, *G. lamblia* was identified in 574 individuals (1.68 per 1000 inhabitants), with mean age 33.76 ± 12.93 years, equally in both sexes. In the analyzed period there was a statistically significant reduction in the prevalence of giardiasis ($p < 0.001$). The highest prevalence was found in 2005 (4.90) and the lowest in 2014 (0.57 per 1000 inhabitants). Giardiasis was most prevalent in retail workers (27.20%), workers in food preparation and food industry (18.10%) and caterers (12.70%). With regards to seasonal prevalence, the highest prevalence was in the summer (31.0%) and the lowest in the autumn (18.50%).

In the Niš region, the prevalence of asymptomatic giardiasis is significantly reduced in individuals that are subject to sanitary controls for systematic monitoring and implementation of measures of prevention and control of giardiasis. In patients with digestive complaints for the infective etiology of the disease to be excluded, it is necessary to perform parasitic examinations of the samples in order to confirm or exclude the infection with this protozoan. *Acta Medica Medianae 2017;56(3):48-54.*

Key words: *giardiasis/lambliasis, prevalence, sanitary supervision*