

## Editorial note on prevalence of ovine coccidiosis

**Habib Fadel**

Specialist Plastic Surgeon, Soran University, Iraq.

A cross-sectional study was conducted from November 2016 to April 2017 in and around Gonder town to estimate the prevalence of ovine Coccidiosis, to assess the associated risk factors and to estimate association between intensity of infection and risk factors. Four hundred twenty-two (422) faecal samples were collected from sheep selected by systematic random sampling and coprological examination was applied for the recovery of *Eimeria* oocyst. Among the animals examined 132 (31.3%) were found infected by *Eimeria* species. Statistically significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) of *Eimeria* infection prevalence were observed among the risk factors considered for this study: sex, body condition, age, production system, faecal consistency and hygienic status of animals.

There was strong association between intensity of infection and age, sex, body condition, faecal consistency, production system and hygienic status of the animals ( $P < 0.05$ ). Mean OPG was also significantly influenced by those host-related and environmental risk factors. This study revealed that *Eimeria* infection is important problem in sheep in the study area. Therefore, planning effective control and prevention program and a continuous animal health extension service is essential for the well-being and productivity of animals to be maintained.

Coccidiosis is caused by single celled parasites (protozoa) called *Eimeria*, which undergo a simple life cycle in the gut. Although often asymptomatic in sheep, coccidiosis can be a serious economic enteric disease, resulting in diarrhoea, inefficient weight gains, and occasionally death (Chartier and Paraud, 2012).

Treatment of affected sheep once coccidiosis has been diagnosed is not effective, but severity can be reduced if treatment is begun early. A single treatment of toltrazuril (20 mg/kg) can significantly reduce the oocyst output in naturally infected lambs for ~3 wk after administration.

The most popular treatment for coccidiosis is Amprolium, which blocks the parasite's ability to uptake and multiply. Treatment is usually administered by adding Amprolium to the chickens' water supply, however in some cases, where sick chickens aren't eating or drinking enough, the medication is given orally.

Stay Safe & Healthy...!

Thank you!

With kind regards,  
Ayan Michael,  
Associate Managing Editor,  
Archives of General Internal Medicine