

**Seroepidemiology of Toxocara canis infection
among mountain aboriginal schoolchildren
living in contaminated districts in eastern
Taiwan**

范家?

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摘要

Abstract

We conducted a seroepidemiological study of *Toxocara canis* infection among mountain aboriginal schoolchildren aged 7-12 years living in contaminated districts in eastern Taiwan. To detect sera IgG ($>$ or $=1:64$) we used a *T. canis* larval excretory-secretory antigen-based enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. A short questionnaire elicited information on the practices of raising dogs, playing with soil, eating raw vegetables, or whether the child normally washed his/her hands before eating. The overall seroprevalence was quite high, reaching 76.6% (252/329). Neither age nor gender seemed to be important factors related to a positive serology. Aboriginal schoolchildren who raised dogs (OR=1.83, 95% CI: 1.04-3.19, $P=0.03$), or played with soil (OR=2.52, 95% CI: 1.49-4.25, $P < 0.001$) seemed to be more susceptible to *T. canis* infection than those who did not. Children who habitually washed their hands before eating (OR=0.57, 95% CI: 0.33-0.97, $P=0.04$) had a lower chance of acquiring *T. canis* infection than those who did not.