

**Seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii*
infection among pre-schoolchildren aged 1 to
5 years in the Democratic Republic of Sao
Tome and Principe, Western Africa**

范家?

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摘要

Abstract

The prevalence status of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in children of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe (DRSTP), Western Africa, is unknown to date. A serologic survey of *T gondii* infection among pre-schoolchildren aged < 5 years in the DRSTP was assessed by the latex agglutination (LA) test from November 2003 to March 2004. The overall seroprevalence of *T gondii* infection was not low, reaching 21.49% (26/121). No significant gender difference in seroprevalence was found between boys (19.30%; 11/57) and girls (23.44%; 15/64) ($\chi^2 = 0.31$, $P = 0.58$). The older age group of 4-5 years had significantly higher seroprevalence (36.67%; 11/30) than the younger age group of < 2 years (10.34%; 3/29) ($\chi^2 = 5.64$, $P = 0.02$). It was noteworthy that the majority of seropositive boys (90.91%; 10/11) or older children aged ≥ 2 years (82.61%; 19/23) had high LA titres of $\geq 1:1024$, indirectly indicating acute *Toxoplasma* infection. This study is the first report indicating that *T gondii* infection is not low in pre-schoolchildren aged < 5 years in the DRSTP. Whether the DRSTP pre-schoolchildren acquire *T gondii* infection through constant exposure to the parasite from their daily activities owing to poor environmental hygiene should be further evaluated. (c) 2005 Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.