

عنوان مقاله:

A serological and parasitological study of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in stray cats of Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province, Iran

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خلاصه مقاله:

The aim of the present study was to determine seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in stray cats and correlation with oocyst shedding and IFN- γ concentration. From April to August 2016, one hundred fifty-nine stray cats were captured from various localities in Mashhad area. The blood and fecal samples were collected from each cat. The serum samples were examined to detect antibodies against *T. gondii* infection by ELISA assay and the fecal samples were microscopically examined for *T. gondii* oocyst detection. The concentration changes of IFN- γ in serum samples of seropositive and seronegative cats were measured using ELISA kit. The results showed that 59.12% (94/159) of cats had antibodies against *T. gondii* infection. The seroprevalence of *T. gondii* infection in the adult cats above three years olds was higher than other groups. Regarding gender, month and region factors, the difference of seroprevalence of *T. gondii* infection was not significant. In this study, the *Toxoplasma/Hammondia* like oocyst (THLO) were detected in 2.56% (4/156) in fecal samples of one seropositive and three seronegative cats. Results also showed that the mean value for IFN- γ concentration in the seropositive cats was significantly higher than that of the seronegative cats. Based on the results, the high percentages of stray cats were infected with *T. gondii* in this area. The IFN- γ concentration of seropositive cats was higher than that of the seronegative cats.

کلمات کلیدی:

ELISA, Interferon gamma, Prevalence, Stray cat, *Toxoplasma*

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