

Part I

INTRODUCTION

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AIM OF THE WORK

Giardiasis is one of the most prevalent protozoal infection among Egyptian children. In the past, the prevailing medical opinion was that Giardia were commensal parasites of humans and that their ability to cause infection was questionable.

Recently it is recognized that, Giardia are potentially pathogenic, while most frequently they occur asymptotically, yet sometimes they are capable of producing serious intestinal malabsorption syndromes (Pugh and Newton, 1980). Infection may occur in an epidemic as well as endemic form (Brien, 1981).

Our present study aims at the detection of the prevalence rate, the clinical presentations, the diagnosis and treatment of this parasite among children in Kalyobia governorate.