

Aspects of the echinococcosis-hydatidosis complex in public health: A review article

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ABSTRACT

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the echinococcosis-hydatidosis complex is one of the 17 Neglected Tropical Diseases in humans, caused by parasites of the genus *Echinococcus* spp. Occurring worldwide, it prevails in rural areas and precarious regions, with low sanitary and socioeconomic conditions, contributing to the evolution and subsistence of parasitic diseases. Among the species of *Echinococcus*, the species *E. granulosus* is the main responsible for damage to public health. In the echinococcosis-hydatidosis cycle, the adult form of the parasite is found in the small intestine of the definitive host (HD), generating eggs that will be eliminated together with the feces. The symptomatology depends on factors such as: affected organs, size of the cyst, location in the tissue, complications associated with the presence of the cyst and bacterial infections. Humans are infected due to poor sanitary conditions, and the parasite's eggs are ingested in water and/or food contaminated with HD feces. The diagnosis of hydatidosis begins with epidemiological precedents, followed by suspicion due to clinical signs; confirmation by imaging tests; identification of cyst constituents and confirmation by detection of antibodies by ELISA or indirect immunofluorescence. For treatment, surgical techniques can be used in conjunction with antiparasitic treatment. Considering that this is a disease with the possibility of recurrence, a multifactorial approach is necessary, associating drug and surgical treatment and long-term follow-up.

Keywords: Zoonosis, Parasite, Cestode.

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