



Prevalence and Complications of Amoebiasis in India

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Amoebiasis is a significant public health issue in India, responsible for diarrheal diseases causing significant morbidity and mortality. A comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted to estimate the nationwide prevalence and geographic distribution of amoebiasis in India and the associated complications. The review found that the prevalence of amoebiasis in India ranged from 3-23% in asymptomatic populations, 0.6411% in symptomatic patients, and 1-17.5% in HIV-infected patients. The highest prevalence was observed in states such as Tamil Nadu, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and North East India. The review also highlighted the significant burden of complications associated with amoebiasis, including amoebic liver abscess, colonic perforation, and ameboma, which can lead to increased healthcare burden and mortality. The study emphasized the need for public health efforts to control amoebiasis and improve diagnostic methods for distinguishing between pathogenic and non-pathogenic species of *Entamoeba*. The systematic review followed the PRISMA guidelines, ensuring rigorous methodology and transparent reporting [1,2].

It is crucial for healthcare professionals and policymakers to address this public health challenge effectively. The treatment guidelines for amoebiasis in India recommend specific medications based on the severity of the infection. The primary therapy for symptomatic amoebiasis includes the use of metronidazole and/or tinidazole, with the possibility of using luminal agents such as paromomycin and diloxanide furoate for a luminal infection [3]. The study also highlights the importance of completing

the full course of medication for effective treatment. Public health interventions play a critical role in reducing the impact of amoebiasis on morbidity and mortality [1,2].

Accurate diagnosis is crucial for appropriate management and public health measures. Diagnostic methods used to distinguish between pathogenic and non-pathogenic species of *Entamoeba* include molecular analysis (PCR-based assays), electrophoretic migration of isoenzymes, and clinical correlation. PCR-based assays are the method of choice for discriminating between the pathogenic species (*Entamoeba histolytica*) and the non-pathogenic species (*E. dispar*, *E. coli* and *moshkovkii*). Clinical presentation and associated symptoms can also provide clues [2].

Amoebiasis is a significant public health issue in India, and public health efforts should focus on controlling the disease and its associated complications. Improved diagnostic methods are essential for distinguishing between pathogenic and non-pathogenic species of *Entamoeba*. Accurate diagnosis and adherence to treatment are crucial for appropriate management and public health measures. Healthcare professionals and policymakers should address this public health challenge effectively [1,2].

Bibliography

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