

Intestinal parasitic infestations

Şinasi Özsoylu

To the Editor,

I would like to bring to the attention the following printing errors related to Aksoy et al.'s paper entitled "Demographic status and prevalence of intestinal parasitic infections in İzmir, Turkey", which appeared in the July-September 2007 issue of the Journal (2007; 40: 278-282).

Rainfall should be given per square meter. On page 279 of the authors' paper, "Average annual rainfall is 691 mm³" and the following two sentences could not be true because of unit expressions.

The term "infection" is generally used for the "invasion of the body by pathogenic microorganisms and the reaction of the tissues to their presence, and the toxin generated by them", while the term "infestation" is used for "invasion of the body by arthropods including insects, mites and ticks" (According to Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary). Therefore, I believe the term infestation would be more appropriate for intestinal parasitic disorders. Since Blastocystis hominis is a vegetable microorganism, the term infection could be used for it. Since this is the first time I have learned of the presence of Blastocystis hominis in the Turkish population, I would like to learn its manifestations.

Şinasi Özsoylu MD

Emeritus

Professor of Pediatrics and Hematology

E-mail: sinasiozsoylu@hotmail.com