

Portable ultrasound scanner versus serology in screening for hydatid cysts in a nomadic population

Abstract:

3553 nomads in Turkana, a remote area of north-west Kenya, were screened for hydatid cysts by a portable ultrasound scanner and by serology. 198 (5.6%) proved to have liver or upper abdominal cysts. In the group screened by both techniques (2644) 174 (6.6%) cases of hydatidosis were detected by ultrasonography and 76 (2.9%) by serology. Ultrasonography gave immediate results and was less expensive and more acceptable and educationally valuable to the people. This non-invasive rapid technique also provided important clinical information about the cysts. The prevalence data thus obtained will contribute to the surveillance of a hydatid control programme.