

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY TREATMENT IN INTESTINAL PARASITES

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After graduation from Medical School in 1951, I was sent to several towns in South East Anatolia as a government medical officer. One day a low-level government officer complained me about his son intestinal parasite. Following the microscopic stool examination, I prescribed an antihelmintic drug, Ascaridol. The father was very happy that his son was successfully treated. About 6 months later he visited me again holding a huge ascaris obtained from his son's stool. Therefore, I represcribed him Ascaridol. The father was again thankful for another 5 months because the drug cleared his son's intestinal parasites. When the father returned the third time with the same complaint, I questioned him about sanitary conditions in his house and how many people lived in his house. I learned that his wife, his three daughters, and he himself also had intestinal parasites. In addition to this, he did not have a toilet in his house, which was a common problem at that time in that particular area.

I asked him to construct a toilet at home, and at the same time I treated all the family members with Ascaridol. Finally, no more complaints related to intestinal parasites were received from this family.

This experience helped me learn that it is important to treat the entire family members of the intestinal parasites at once and most importantly to be aware of sanitary conditions at home. I reemphasize that sanitary conditions in a poor social economical area are the main cause of many diseases, and for the prevention of several disorders it is important that the sanitary conditions are improved.

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