



Tehran University of  
Medical Sciences  
Publication  
<http://tums.ac.ir>

## Iranian J Parasitol

Open access Journal at  
<http://ijpa.tums.ac.ir>



Iranian Society of  
Parasitology  
<http://isp.tums.ac.ir>

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor-in-Chief

Iranian J Parasitol

I read the recent report by Asgari et al. (1) with a great interest. They studied on the seroprevalence of *T. gondii* in chicken and concluded that “Based on cultural and food habits in our area, the meat and viscera of chicken may be important sources of infection in human when consuming semi-cooked meats” and also mentioned for several means to control of the transmittable *T. gondii* from chicken. There are some concerns on this report. Indeed, the *T. gondii* as a food borne disease is recently proposed and chicken were proposed as important sources of infection in many countries (2 – 3). Dubey recently reported that very high prevalence of the parasite could be found in chickens raised in backyards and free-range organic establishments [2]. In the report by Asgari et al., the in depth analysis for these backgrounds might give more useful information. In addition, although the suggestions by them are useful not all arise from their seroprevalence study. There is no complete assessment on the human seroprevalence in that area as well as the chicken eating behavior of those people. It should also be noted that statistically significant correlation of *T. gondii* infection was

found with cat, chicken and pig contact but none with consumption of meat, milk, and eggs (4).

Sincerely

Professor Viroj Wiwanitkit

Correspondence

References

1. Asgari Q, Motazedian MH, Esmaeelzadeh B, Kalantari M, Hatam GrH. The Prevalence of *Toxoplasma* Infection among Free-Ranging Chickens in Southern Iran Using IFA and Nested-PCR. *Iran J Parasitol*. 2009;4(4) : 29-36.
2. Dubey JP. *Toxoplasma gondii* Infections in Chickens (*Gallus domesticus*): Prevalence, Clinical Disease, Diagnosis and Public Health Significance. *Zoonoses Public Health*. 2009 Sep 10. [Epub ahead of print]
3. Yan C, Yue CL, Yuan ZG, He Y, Yin CC, Lin RQ, Dubey JP, Zhu XQ. *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in domestic ducks, free-range and caged chickens in southern China. *Vet Parasitol*. 2009 Nov 12;165(3-4):337-40.

4. de Camargo MC, Antunes CM, Chiari Cde A. Epidemiology of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in the municipality of Ribeirão das Neves, MG. I. Importance of domestic animals as sources of *T. gondii* infection in humans. Rev Soc Bras Med Trop. 1995 Jul-Sep;28(3):211-4.