

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TOXOPLASMOSIS OF
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN JATAÍ-GO, BRAZIL**

*(ANÁLISE COMPARATIVA DO CONHECIMENTO SOBRE TOXOPLASMOSE DOS PROFESSORES
DE ESCOLAS DA REDE MUNICIPAL DAS SÉRIES INICIAIS DO ENSINO FUNDAMENTAL DO
MUNICÍPIO DE JATAÍ-GO, BRASIL)*

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Toxoplasmosis is an anthroozoonosis transmitted by *Toxoplasma gondii* via ingestion of oocysts, tissue cysts, and transplacentally. The felines are definitive hosts while mammals and birds are intermediate hosts. Lectures on this subject were given to elementary school teachers in Jataí, GO. This study compares prior and post-lecture knowledge of the teachers about toxoplasmosis. We interviewed 165 teachers from 19 schools. A questionnaire with open questions about transmission and prevention was applied before and after the lecture. Of the total, 18.8% (31/165) did not answer the questions before the lecture; however, after the lecture this number decreased to 6.6% (11/165). The comparison of the responses in the two stages results is: while prior 31.3% (42/134) could not explain how toxoplasmosis is transmitted, post-lecture only 10.4% (16/154). The answer “contact with the cat feces” increased from 40.2% (54/134) to 46.8% (72/154). Prior to the lecture, “contact with dogs and cats” was answered by 14.9% (20/134) while post-lecture 6.5% (10/154) blaming other animals; ingestion of food was also the answer of 9.7% (13/134) while after the lecture nobody gave this answer; poor hygiene and contaminated environments increased from 2.9% (4/134) to 3.2% (5/154); and, contact with rat increased from 0.7% (1/134) to 1.3% (2/154). Post-lecture, there were the following new answers: contaminated food and water 13% (20/154); contaminated animals and food 9.1% (14/154); cat feces and contaminated meat 9.7% (15/154). On ways to prevent the disease, prior to the lecture 57.4% (77/134) did not know, reduced to 16.9% (26/154) post-lecture; vaccination of animals from 11.9% (16/134) to 5.8% (9/154), without specifying whether in humans or animals; avoid contact with infected animals from 14.1% (19/134) to 5.2% (8/154); basic hygiene from 9.7% (13/134) to 35.7% (55/154). Avoiding contact with cats and rats was only cited prior to lecture by 6% (8/134) and 0.7% (1/134), respectively. New answers emerged: 22.1% (34/154) consumption of raw foods; 9.7% (15/154) avoid contact with infected animals and raw foods; and, 4.5% (7/154) other responses. It is can be concluded that despite the knowledge improvement, further educational work should be performed with respect to transmission and prevention of important zoonoses.

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