

# HIGH PREVALENCE OF *MICROSPORIDIUM* INFECTION IN HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS

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**Abstract.** Sixty-four patients infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) participated in a study to determine opportunistic enteric pathogens and compare them with the patients' clinical status. The most frequently found pathogens were microsporidium (81.2%), *Cryptosporidium parvum* (20.3%), *Candida albicans* (12.5%) and *Blastocystis hominis* (10.9%). Less frequently found pathogens were *Giardia intestinalis* (6.2%), *Cyclospora* (4.7%), *Opishorchis viverrini* ova (3.1%), *Strongyloides stercoralis* larvae (3.1%) and hookworm ova (1.6%). The presence of enteric pathogens was not significantly associated with sex, length of HIV seropositivity and diarrheal symptoms. A high prevalence of microsporidium, based on microscopic examination, was found in Thai HIV-infected patients. This confirms the importance of microsporidium in HIV-infected/AIDS patients and the necessity for stool evaluation in all HIV-infected patients.

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