



## Allergic disease and the infestation of *Enterobius vermicularis* in Swedish children 4-10 years of age.

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Abstract: BACKGROUND: The possible association between certain childhood infections and the propensity to develop allergic disease may include intestinal helminth infections. The experiences of such associations derive mainly from studies in tropical areas, and the results are not clear-cut. Objective: To explore the association between *Enterobius vermicularis* and allergic disease in Swedish children 4 to 10 years of age. METHOD: The occurrence of *E. vermicularis* was examined by perianal tape tests in 70 allergic children recovered from a pediatric register of positive skin-prick tests. A nonallergic control group (n = 102) was gathered from a cohort of children previously examined for the prevalence of *E. vermicularis* and allergic symptoms. RESULTS: In the allergic group 26 of the 70 cases (37%) had a positive tape-test for *E. vermicularis*, compared to 23 of the 102 cases (23%) in the nonallergic control group (p = .037). CONCLUSION: The results indicate that *E. vermicularis* could be more frequent in children with allergic disease as defined by allergic symptoms and a positive skin-prick test compared to nonallergic children, i. e., those without a history of allergic disease. These data, however, do not allow any conclusion on the nature of the possible association between *E. vermicularis* and allergic disease.

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