

---

# Comparative study of diagnostic techniques of cryptosporidiosis in diarrheic children

**Asmaa Abdel Moniem El Kholy**

This study was carried out on 80 diarrheic children of different ages who are divided into two groups: 1- Immunocompromised group: Including 40 Immunocompromised diarrheic children. 2- Immunocompetent group: Including 40 Immunocompetent diarrheic children. Stool samples were collected from these diarrheic children and *Cryptosporidium parvum* was examined in these stool samples by the following: 1) Macroscopic examination. 2) Microscopic examination including: a- Direct smear. b- Concentration method using Sheather's sugar cover slip floatation method. c- Preparation of fixed smears. d- Staining of the smears by modified Ziehl-Nelsen stain. 3) ELLSA technique for coproantigen detection. Based on the results of the present study, it can be concluded that: 1- *Cryptosporidium* spp is an important cause of diarrhea in children under six years of age especially the immunocompromised children. 2- *Cryptosporidium* infection is insignificantly more prevalent in males than females. 3- Abdominal pain and loss of weight are the main presenting symptoms among all *Cryptosporidium* infected cases after diarrhea. 4- The highest rate of infection was detected among patients with diarrhea of 5 -