

Knowledge and practices associated with transmission of trichinellosis, hanta and cystic equinococcosis [Conocimientos y prácticas asociadas a transmisión de triquinelosis, hanta y equinococosis quística]

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Objective: To associate the level of knowledge and practices (habits and customs) responsible for the transmission of trichinellosis, Hanta and cystic echinococcosis (hydatidosis), among rural population. **Material and method:** Cross-sectional correlational descriptive study in which 149 residents of the rural areas of Curacautín, Lonquimay and Melipeuco were surveyed, using non-probability convenience sampling from December 2013 to January 2014. **Results:** The population has better knowledge of trichinellosis and Hanta than hydatidosis, 64.9%, 72.8 and 39.3% respectively; they also have better practices regarding Hanta and hydatidosis (84% each) than regarding trichinellosis (69.5%). The population recognizes correctly the reservoir, source of infection and transmission mechanisms of trichinellosis and Hanta, and to a lesser degree hydatidosis; they report good practices regarding habits and customs, even ignoring theoretical foundations, but maintain some practices that favor the transmission of infections related to trichinellosis. **Conclusion:** The level of knowledge does not ensure good practices. Additionally, knowledge and practices follow an empirical rather than cognitive pattern, rooted on cultural and environmental aspects. This suggests greater participation of interdisciplinary teams in isolated communities to strengthen the promotion, education and reinforcement of good practices in accordance with their social conditions and to encourage adherence to behaviors that reduce the

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Attitudes

Echinococcosis

Hantavirus infections

Health knowledge

Practice

Rural nursing

Trichinellosis

Zoonoses