

## PREVALENCE, PUBLIC AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF HYDATIDOSIS IN THE CATTLE SLAUGHTERED AT MENDI SLAUGHTER SLAB WEST WALLEGA, OROMIA, ETHIOPIA.

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**ABSTRACT:** Back ground: Haydatidosis, is one of the zoonotic diseases associated with great public health and economic significance in the worldwide. Objectives: A cross-sectional study was conducted from October 2024 to october 2025 with the aim of determining the prevalence, organ distribution, fertility rate, cyst burden and assessing financial losses and public awareness of hydatidosis in cattle slaughtered at Mendi slaughter slab. Methods: Routine ante-mortem and post-mortem examination were conducted for the presence of hydatid cyst. Post-mortem examination was conducted thorough visual inspection, palpation and systemic incision of each visceral organ particularly the lungs, kidneys, liver and heart. In this study the overall prevalence of hydatid cystic in the cattle slaughtered at mendi slaughter slab was 17.70% (68/384). There was no significant statistical association in all potential risk factors except between animal age categories and body condition score. In this study, cyst count shows 68 total cysts were counted in total infected cattles, which shows great environmental contamination if the offal are not disposed with great caution. Organ distribution shows, Hydatid cysts had a tendency to be located more in the lungs than liver and kidneys. In the present study hydatid cyst characterization showed that 11/36 (30.55%), 25/36(69.44%),23/32(71.87%) and 9/32 (28.12%) were viable, non-viable, sterile and calcified respectively. In this study; an overall annual financial losses due to organ condemnation and carcass weight loss from total infected cattle was estimated to be: 1,952,756.4ETB. Conclusion and recommendations: Large dog population, widespread stray dogs, free access of dogs to offal, inappropriate disposal of offal and inadequate animal health services especially worm control are major predisposing factors which contribute to persisting of the diseases. Majority of the community in this study were at risk to contract the disease due to lack of knowledge on transmission, zoonosis, treatment and control of hydatidosis. These results suggest that the occurrence of the hydatid cyst infection in this area is a great concern for both medical and veterinary authorities. Thus, the development of effective disease management and awareness creation are required to overcome these problems.

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**Keywords:** cattle; financial losses; Prevalence; hydatid cyst; Mendi; Public awareness

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Back ground

Ethiopia have an estimated livestock population of approximately 49.3 million cattle, 25.02 million sheep, 27.88 million goats, 8.41 million equines, 1.06 million camels, 20,000 pigs, and 58 million chickens, which stands first in Africa and tenth in the world (CSA,2017). In the country, cattle are important source of income for rural communities and are one of the nation's major sources of foreign currency from export. However, this great potential is not properly exploited. This is because of endemic disease burdens, traditional management system, inferior genetic makeup coupled with malnutrition and absence of well-developed market infrastructure. Among the many prevalent livestock diseases,

parasitic disease represent a major constraint to livestock development in the tropics in general and hydatidosis is among the major parasitic diseases contributing to low productivity of meat production due to carcass or organ condemnation, in particular (Parija, 2014).

Hydatidosis, mainly caused by the metacystode of *Echinococcus granulosus*, is one of the most common zoonotic diseases associated with huge economic losses and great public health significance worldwide (Romig *et al.* 2011). The adult tapeworm in the definitive dog host is harmless unlike the hydatid cyst in the intermediate host animals that is responsible for immense economic and medical importance in infected hosts (Azlaf and Dakkak 2006; Fakhar and Sadjjadi 2007; Battelli 2009; Ibrahim 2010).

The disease induced by the zoonotic tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* is known as hydatid disease (Pal, 2007). Hydatidosis is one of the most common parasitic infections that contribute to decreased meat production output owing to carcass or organ condemnation (Abebe and Jobre, 2011). It is considered one of the world's leading zoonoses, affecting both people and domestic animals (Cringoli *et al.*, 2007; Pal *et al.*, 2020). Dogs and other canids are definitive hosts for the parasite, while livestock are intermediate hosts. Man is an aberrant intermediate host. The outcome of infection in livestock and man is hydatid cyst development in lung, liver or other organs. The importance of hydatidosis can be evaluated from both the public health and economic losses point of view. The economic significance of hydatidosis in livestock leads to considerable economic losses due to condemnation of edible offal, primarily liver, lung and other organs or even whole carcasses. In severe infection, the parasite may cause retarded performance and growth, reduced quality and yield of meat, milk or wool (Eckert *et al.*, 2001). The life cycle of *Echinococcus* involves two mammalian hosts. The definitive host of parasite, *E. granulosus*, is dog which harbor adult tapeworms in the small intestine excrete the parasite eggs along with their feces while livestock and human are the main intermediate hosts (WHO, 2012).

After ingestion of egg by an intermediate hosts the oncosphere penetrates the wall of the small intestine. A secretion from oncosphere aids is penetrated in to the intestine. Up on gaining access to a venue, the oncosphere is passively transported to the liver, where some retained, others reach the lung, and few may be transported further to the kidney, spleen, muscle, brain and other visceral organs. Once the oncosphere has reached its final location, it develops in to the hydatid cyst (Oku, *et al.*, 2004).

Protoscoleces containing Hydatid cysts is ingested by a suitable definitive host, due to the action of pepsin in the stomach, they evaginated in the upper duodenum in response to a change in PH, exposure to bile and to increased temperature. Then they develop into sexually mature adult tapeworm, approximately four to six weeks after infection, depending on the species and strain, and on the susceptibility of the host (Eckert *et al* 2001).

The prevalence and public health impact of cystic Echinococcosis is higher in rural communities of developing countries where there is close contact between dogs, intermediate host species and man

(Ibrahim, 2010; Romig *et al.*, 2011). In Ethiopia cystic echinococcosis is an endemic disease and has enormous medical and veterinary importance due to suitable factors such as predominant home slaughtering of cattle, sheep, goats and camels with improper disposal of affected organs. Moreover, uncooked carcass wastes and offal's are traditionally fed to dogs and cats in the country. As a result cystic echinococcosis is implicated as one of the major causes of organ condemnation and carcass weight loss in slaughtered animals in Ethiopia. Cystic echinococcosis in cattle has been reported from some parts of the country (Abebe *etal*, 2013;)

In Ethiopia, the absence of proper meat inspection procedures and the presence of a large stray dog population are thought to contribute significantly to the prevalence of the disease (Kebede *et al.*, 2009). The problem associated with tapeworm is more serious in Ethiopia because of the common habits of consuming uncooked meat (Kebede, 2010). In Ethiopia, some studies have been conducted on hydatidosis, and the prevalence rates changed between 13.7 and 72.44% in cattle and 9.9 and 35% in sheep in the Assela, Adama, Gondar, Bahir Dar and Dire Dawa abattoirs (Jobre *et al.*, 2011; Kebede *et al.*, 2009).

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

Independence in food production, increase in rural income and foreign currency earning of the country through improving the quality and quantity of market oriented livestock and their items are the main objectives of the agricultural development policies of Ethiopia. However, hydatidosis still causes great health and economic problems in market oriented livestock due to in fact that slaughtering of livestock is predominant and uncooked offal and carcass wastes are normally given for dogs in the country. Despite of these, there is limited information on the current status of hydatidosis of cattle, their implications on financial concerns and public awareness in Mendi town. Study of these parasites together with associated risk factors and determination of the economic significance are very important in planning and implementation of control strategies, and to understand the risk of spreading of the disease both to domestic animals and humans. In view of addressing the problem, this research was to investigate of occurrence of hydatid cyst in cattles slaughtered at Mendi abattoirs and to bridge the information on current public knowledge and economic significance; so as to generate base line data that may assist for control of the disease.

### 1.3. General Objectives

To investigate the prevalence, fertility and viability cyst, and economic significance of cattle hydatidosis at Mendi slaughter slab and assessing public health awareness in Mendi town

### 1.4. Specific objectives

- To determine the prevalence of hydatid cyst in cattle slaughtered at Mendi slaughter slab.
- To estimate the monetary losses from organ/carcass condemned and carcass weight loss due to the metacestode
- To assess the public health awareness of hydatidosis in Mendi town
- To determine organ distribution of and fertility and viability of the cysts.

## 1. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1 Study Area

The study was conducted from October 2024 to September 2025 at Mendi town, which is found in West Wollega zone of Oromia Regional State, approximately 596 km away from Addis Ababa to west direction located between latitude 9° 48'N and longitude 35° 06'E at an elevation of 1821 meter above sea level. It is characterized by tropical climate of heavy rain fall, warm sometimes hot temperature and long wet period. Mendi town is the administrative center of Manasibu woreda, which is

bordered on the south by Jarso, on the south west by Begi, on the North by the Benishangul Gumuz Region and on the South west by Nedjo (Mekonnen and Wale, 2017).

The climate varies from wet and humid during heavy rains between May and September to hot and semiarid condition between November and April. Rain fall received during summer, which lasts from late May to early September, constitutes about 70% of the total Annual rain fall reaching the area. Generally average annual rain fall in the zone ranges between 1200-2000mms. Maximum temperature in Mendi town is on the average 23.9°C. On the other hand minimum temperature is between 11°C and 16°C during the months of October to December. Mendi town has an area of 5826 square kilometers with a population density of 78.5 per square kilometer.

Based on the census report by the central statistics authority for 2007 indicated that the population of Mendi town is about 70,000 (30,000 are male and 40,000 female). The farming system of the area was mixed farming where 85 % of the total population engaged in agriculture. Crop and livestock sales are important source of income for all wealth groups. The livestock population that are found in menesibu woreda includes cattle (88,784 million); sheep (34,446 million), (30.2 million) goats.

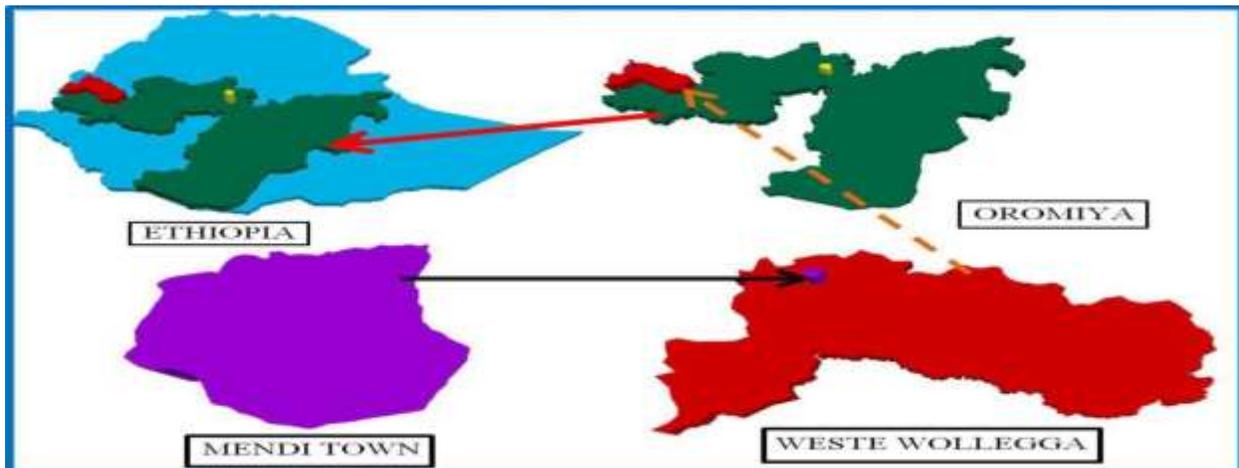


Figure 1. Map of the study area

### 2.2 Study animals

The study animals were local and cross breed cattle originated from neighbouring localities presented to Mendi slaughter slab for slaughtering.

## 2.3 Study Design

A cross-sectional study was conducted according to the standard procedures recommended for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection by food and agriculture organization (FAO) from October 2024 to October 2025, to determine the prevalence of hydatid cyst at Mendi slaughter slab. Questionnaire survey: aiming to assess public awareness about hydatidosis and the risk factors for its occurrence was carried out at Mendi town during the study period. The questionnaires querying the extent of awareness on the disease, control measures taken and other related factors of the respective individuals, such as householders, abattoir workers. The detail format is found on Annex.

## 2.4 Sample Size Determination and Sampling Techniques

The number of animals required for the study were determined using the formula given by Thrusfield (2007), by using 95% level of confidence, 50% expected prevalence and 0.05 desired absolute precision.

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 P_{exp} (1 - P_{exp})}{d^2}$$

**Where:** n = required sample size, P<sub>exp</sub> = expected prevalence and d = desired absolute precision.

Accordingly, the required sample size for this study was 384 cattle examined to determine the presence of hydatid cyst by postmortem examination of different visceral organs. These study animals were selected by simple random sampling technique. For a questionnaire survey sample size was calculated based on the formula recommended by Arsham (2002).

$$N = 0.25/SE^2$$

Where N = sample size, SE = standard error assuming the standard error of 5% at a precision level of 0.05 and the confidence interval of 95%. Accordingly, 100 volunteer individuals were selected and interviewed considering different age, sex, education level and working conditions.

## 2.5 Ante mortem and postmortem Examination

### 2.5.1 Ante mortem examination

During ante-mortem examination each individual animals were given an identification number and grouped in to different categories of animal origin, age and body condition score according to (Lahunta and Habel 1986). Immediately before slaughter, a complete ante-mortem examination of cattle was conducted to examine for obvious signs of illness at rest and/or in gesture.

### 2.5.2 Postmortem inspection

A post-mortem examination was carried out through visual inspection, palpation and incision of visceral organs (lung, liver, heart, and kidney) and the presence of hydatid cysts and their organ distribution were recorded. Each organ Hydatid cysts were carefully removed and separately collected (in organ basis) in clean containers for further cyst characterization. Hydatid cyst characterization was made to assess the status of the cysts (Herenda *et al.*, 1994).

### 2.5.3 Cyst Characterization

#### 2.5.3.1 Fertility and Viability test

The individual cysts from each of the infected organs of cattle were grossly examined for degeneration, and then cysts selected, carefully incised and examined for protoscolices. The content of the fluid was aspirated using 18 gauge needle and 20ml syringe into sterile cylinder container to reduce pressure and risk of entering the eye. After being punctured, the pressure was reduced and the cysts were incised using scalpel blade and the whole content was transferred into beaker. Then about 10 ml was poured to the test tube and centrifuged at 500 resolutions per minutes for 5 minutes to separate the contents clearly from the liquid part. The supernatant was discarded and the sediment left in the test tube was examined under a microscope (40X) for the presence of protoscolices in the cyst. The cysts which contain protoscolices were classified as fertile cysts (Daryani *et al.*, 2007). Fertile cysts were further subjected to viability test. A drop of cyst fluid was placed on the microscope glass slide and covers with cover slip and was observed for amoeboid like peristaltic movement with (40X) objective. For clear vision, a drop of 0.1% aqueous

eosin solution was added to cyst fluid on microscope slide with the principle that viable protoscolices completely or partially exclude the dye while the dead ones take it up (Dalimi *et al.*, 2002).

## 2.6 Data analysis

Microsoft excel 2010 data base system was used for entry, coding and simple calculation of collected data. All statistical data analyses were done by using statistical software for social science (SPSS) version 20. The statistical association between hydatid cyst infection and risk factors were analysed by multiple logistic regression model. A statistically significant difference between variables exists when value  $p < 0.05$  at 95% confidence level (CI). Burden of the cyst was calculated by using Microsoft excel .

## RESULTS

### 3.1 Prevalence and Associated Risk Factors

A total 384 slaughtered local and cross breed cattle were examined during the study period by using routine meat inspection procedures at Mendi slaughter slab. The overall prevalence of hydatid cyst was 17.70% (68/384).

### 3.2 Association of Major Risk Factors with Occurrence of Hydatid Cyst

The present study revealed that the number of slaughtered local and cross breed of cattle were 330 and 53 respectively, with higher prevalence recorded in local breed 62/330(18.78% ) than in the cross breed 6/53(11.32%). Based on the age of slaughtered animals Higher hydatid cyst occurrence (27.3%) was recorded in animals greater than 9 years old followed by (16.81%) in 5- 9 years old, and (12.79%) in 3-5 years old, the difference was statistically significant ( $P = 0.001^*$ ). Highest prevalence of hydatid cyst was recorded in cattle with poor body condition score (47.62%) followed by medium (26.47%) and good body condition scores (9.69%), which was statistically significant ( $P = 0.000$ ). Based on the origin of an animal, higher hydatid cyst (22.3%) occurrence was recorded in in Homichala, followed by (20%) in Wajete, (14.58%) in mendi town and (11.11%) in Bijit as indicated in the following (Table 2) but the difference of the recorded prevalence among different origin of an animal was statistically not significant ( $P > 0.05$ ).

Table 1 Prevalence of cattle hydatidosis on the basis of associated risk factors

Risk factors	Categories	No. Examined	No. Positive	Prev.%	$\chi^2$	P- value
Breed	Local	330	62	18.78	1.74	0.2
	Cross	53	6	11.32		
Sex	Female	39	4	10.25	1.65	0.19
	Male	345	64	18.55		
Age	3-5 years	86	11	12.79	11.24	0.001*
	5-9 years	232	39	16.81		
	>9years	66	18	27.27		
BCS	Good	227	22	9.69	22.54	0.000*
	Medium	136	36	26.47		
Origin	Poor	21	10	47.62	4.89	0.2
	Mendi twon	96	13	13.54		
	Wajete	95	19	20		
	Homi chala	121	27	22.31		
	Bijit	72	8	11.11		

According to multivariable logistic regression analysis, statistically significant difference was observed between animals with different age groups 5-9 years old ( $P=0.000^*$ , OR=0.146 and > 9years old ( $P =0.000$  ,OR= 0.375)(Table 2). Animals from local breed were more likely to be exposed to *hydatid cyst* than cross breed. Male slaughtered cattle were more exposed to hydatid cyst infection than female ( $p = 0.19$ , OR = 0.228). Animals with

body poor condition score were more exposed than animals with medium body condition score ( $p=0.000$ ,  $OR = 0.909$ ). Based on the origin of an animals from Homichala, Wajete and Mendi town were more exposed to hydatid cyst ( $p=0.02$ ,  $OR=1.59$ ,  $0.25$  and  $0.157$ ) respectively. Statistical analysis showed that except among age categories and body condition score of slaughtered animal there was no statistically significant association between prevalence of the infection and all potential risk factors.

**Table 2** Multivariable logistic regression analysis for the association between potential risk factors hydatid cyst positive status

Risk factors	Categories	No. Examined	No. Positive	Prev.%	OR(95% conf.int)	P- value
Breed	Local	330	62	18.78	0.23	0.2
	Cross	53	6	11.32	Ref.	
Sex	Female	39	4	10.25	Ref.	0.19
	Male	345	64	18.55	0.228	
Age	3-5 years	86	11	12.79	Ref.	0.001*
	5-9 years	232	39	16.81	0.1467	
	>9years	66	18	27.27	0.375	
BCS	Good	227	22	9.69	Ref.	0.000*
	Medium	136	36	26.47	0.107	
	Poor	21	10	47.62	0.909	
Origin	Mendi twon	96	13	13.54	0.157	0.2
	Wajete	95	19	20	0.25	
	Homi chala	121	27	22.31	1.59	
	Bijit	72	8	11.11	Ref.	

### 3.3 Anatomical distribution in different organs and size of hydatid cysts

The distribution of hydatid cyst in liver, lung, heart, and kidney was found to be 48.52% (33/68), 39.70 % ( 22/68), 7.35 % (5/68), and 4.41 % ( 3/68), respectively. In the majority of animals harboring hydatid cyst, the cysts had the tendency to be located more in liver (48.52%) followed by lung (39.70%), heart (7.38%) and kidney (4.41%). From the total of 68 cysts counted, 61.7% (42), 29.41% (20) and 8.82% (6) were small, medium, and large size measurement respectively as indicated in the following (Table 4).

**Table 3.** Anatomical distribution and size of hydatid cysts in different organs

Organ	Large		Medium		Small		Total account	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lung	4	66.66	8	40	15	35.71	27	39.70
Liver	2	33.33	11	55	20	47.61	33	48.52
Heart	0	0	1	5	4	9.52	5	7.35
Kidney	0	0	0	0	3	7.14	3	4.41
Total	6	100	20	100	42	100	68	100

### 3.4 Characterization of the Cyst

**Fertility and Viability test:** From the total 68 hydatid cyst collected at the abattoir during postmortem examination and subjected to fertility and viability test, 36(52.94%) of them were fertile, and 32(47.05%) were non-fertile; out the fertile cysts, 11 (30.55%) were viable and 25 (69.44%) non-viable; again, among the non-fertile, 23(71.87%) sterile and 9 (28.12%) calcified (Table 5).

**Table 4.** Distribution of Hydatid Cyst fertility and Viability in different organs

Organ	No. of Fertile cyst 36/68 (52.94%)		No. Non- fertility cyst 32/68(47.05%)		Total
	Viable cyst	Non- viable cyst	Sterile cyst	Calcified cyst	
Lung	5	15	2	5	27
Liver	6	7	16	4	33
Heart	0	3	2	0	5
Kidney	0	0	3	0	3
Total	11/36(30.55%)	25/36(69.44%)	23/32(71.87%)	9/32 (28.12%)	68

### 3.5 Estimation of Economic losses

From the total of 384 cattle examined, 68 (17.70%) were found harboring hydatid cysts. Among them, 27 (39.70%), 33 (48.52%), 5 (7.35%) and 3(4.41%) of the hydatid cysts were collected from the lungs, liver, heart and kidneys, respectively. The overall occurrence of hydatid cyst and percentage involvement of lung, liver, heart and kidney were used as input to estimate the financial loss attributable to organs condemned and carcass weight loss in the present study.

According to information obtained from butcher house in Mendi town average market price of cattle lung, liver, kidney, heart, and a kilogram of beef was found to be 20, 20, 25, 30, and 600 Ethiopian Birr (ETB) respectively. The mean annual numbers of cattle slaughtered at Mendi municipal abattoir during the last two years was 2830, and the overall occurrence of hydatid cyst was found 68/384(17.71%) during the study period.

Hence, direct financial losses due to condemnation of organs and indirect financial losses due to carcass weight loss were calculated as follows on annual basis.

$$DL = (AS \times PLu \times CLu) + (AS \times PLi \times CLi) + (AS \times PKid \times CKid) + (AS \times PHr \times CHr)$$

$$(2830 \times 20 \times 0.397) + (2830 \times 20 \times 0.485) + (2830 \times 25 \times 0.044) + (2830 \times 30 \times 0.074)$$

$$DL = (22,470) + (27,451) + (3,113) + (6,282.6) = \mathbf{59, 316.6}_{ETB}.$$

Where ;

DL = direct losses associated with hydatid cyst

AS = estimated mean annual slaughter;

PLu = percent involvement of the lung;

CLu = local retail price of a lung;

PLi = percent involvement of the liver;

CLi = local retail price of a liver;

PKid = percent involvement of the kidney;

CKid = local retail price of a kidney;

PHr = percent involvement of the heart;

CHr = local retail price of a heart.

$$\mathbf{Indirect losses (IL) = 5\%NAS \times PH \times CPB \times 126 \text{ kg} (0.05 \times 2830 \times 0.177 \times 1000 \times 126) = 31,557,330 \text{ ETB.}}$$

Where 5% = A reduction of 5% in meat production due to hydatid cyst;

NAS = average number of cattle slaughtered annually;

PH = prevalence of hydatid cyst;

CPB = current average price of 1 kg of beef at Mendi;

126 kg is the dressed average carcass weight of adult cattle.

Total economic loss (TL):

The total economic loss can be evaluated by considering both direct economic loss and in direct economic loss as follows:

$$TL = DL + IL (59, 316.6 + 1,893,439.8) = \mathbf{1,952,756.4ETB}$$

### 3.5 Community Awareness and Knowledge on cattle hydatidosis

#### 3.5.1 Background information of the interview respondents

This aspect of the analysis deals with the personal data on the respondents of the questionnaires given to them. The total numbers of questionnaires distributed were 100 and all of the questionnaires were returned. All respondents completed the questionnaires in suitable form. The demographic characteristics of the respondents include: gender, level of education, age and habit of raw meat/vegetable consumption. Out of the total 100 interviewed respondents, majority (58%) of the respondents were males while 42% were females. In the present survey, dominant participants (48%) were greater than 35 years age followed by 44% in 16-25 years age and 8% of them were in 25-35 of the age categories. Higher respondents were secondary school graduate 32% followed by (30%) illiterate; 26% primary school; and 12% college level. The table below shows the details of back ground information of the respondents.

Table 5 Background of the questionnaires' respondents (n=100)

Risk factors	Categories	No. of respondents	positive	Percent (%)
Sex	Female	42		42%
	Male	58		58%
Age	16-25	44		44%
	25-35	8		8%
	>35	48		48%
Education level	Illiterate	30		30%
	Primary school	26		26%
	Secondary school	32		32%
	College	12		12%
Consumption habit	Cooked	48		48%
	Raw	52		52%

#### 3.5.2 Assessment on the risk factors

In the current study out of 100 respondents interviewed in the Menedi town, 60% (60/100) owned dogs. On the other hand, 46% of the respondents reported that they usually exercise back yard slaughtering on holydays. Moreover, 36% of them allow their dog to roam outside their compound. The feeding practice of dog owners was also assessed and the result showed that 94% (94/100) of the dog owners feed raw condemned visceral organs without cooking or checking for any abnormality on the organs. On hand washing practice, the participants reported that 96% (96/100) they wash their hands especially when they are going to eat foods, but most of the people reported to wash their hands without soap. Study participants respondent showed that 96% of them Practice washing vegetables before raw consumption (Table 6).

Table 6: Potential risk factors of hydatidosis based on the questionnaires' interview in the Mendi town

Variables	Response	No. respondent	Percent
Dog ownership	Yes	60	60%
	No	40	40%
Dog Housing/management system	Indoor	64	64%
	Outdoor	36	36%
Hand washing practice after contact with dog, dog feces and soil	Yes	96	96%
	No	4	4%
Practice washing vegetables before raw consumption	Yes	96	96%
	No	4	4%
Presence of separate housing for dog	Yes	44	44%
	No	56	56%
Home slaughtering of animals	Yes	46	46%
	No	54	54%
Feed offal to their dogs	Yes	94	94%
	No	6	6%

### 3.5.3 Assessment of zoonosis and transmission mechanism of hydatidosis.

In this study out of 100 interviewed respondents: 14% had no information about bovine hydatidosis, 88 % do not know that hydatid cyst can be shared between human and dogs, 94% of interviewed participants do not know as dogs can be affected by eating raw uncooked offal, and 96% participants of the study do not know that raw/uncooked vegetables and contaminated soil serve as source of hydatidosis in human infection (Table 9)

Table 7. Interview result on zoonosis and transmission mechanism of hydatidosis (n=100)

Variables	Response	No. respondent	Percent
Knowledge on the transmission of disease by eating uncooked viscera	Yes	92	92%
	No	8	8%
Do you know if dogs transmit disease to humans	Yes	88	88%
	No	12	12%
Treat or vaccinate their dogs	Yes	72	72%
	No	28	28%
Frequency of dog treatment	once a year	30	30%
	twice a year	16	16%
	not at all	54	54%
Knowledge on the transmission of disease from dogs to human	Yes	72	72%
	No	28	28%
Knowledge on dog tapeworm	Yes	34	34%
	No	66	66%
Knowledge on hydatidosis	Yes	14	14%
	No	86	86%

## 2. DISCUSSION

Hydatid cyst in cattle are important because they are main cause of meat condemnation contributing to significant economic problems and they cause human infectious disease, especially in poor and developing countries. The prevalence of bovine hydatidosis varies from country to country or even within the country and has been reported by different scholars from developing countries under extensive production system (Sisay *et al.*, 2015; Reza *et al.*, 2018).

In the current study the prevalence of hydatid cyst in cattle slaughtered at Mendi municipal abattoir during the study period was 68/384(17.71%). This proportion of recorded is comparable to findings by Kebede *et al.* (2009a, 2009b), who reported a 16% prevalence in Wolita Sodo, as well as Assefa and Tesfaye (2014) with 18.61% in Adigrat, and Alebie *et al.* (2016), who found a prevalence of 17.97% in Debrezeit. In contrast, this prevalence exceeds those documented in previous studies such as Bezuayehu *et al.* (2014) with 11.3% in Harar, Ochi *et al.* (2016) reporting 3.99% in Juba, South Sudan, Abera and Teklebran (2017) with 11.21% in Wolayta, and Akeberegna *et al.* (2017) at 6.5% in Debre Berhan. These differences highlight the variability in hydatid cyst prevalence across different regions, as regional differences in cultural practices, social behaviors, and attitudes toward dogs (Oostburg *et al.*, 2000). The current prevalence observed was lower than the prevalence reported by Kebede *et al.* (2009a, 2009b), who documented 34.5% in Bahir Dar; Regassa *et al.* (2010), with 52.69% in Hawassa; Nuraddis *et al.* (2017), reporting 63.7% in Asella; and Kebede and Mekonnen (2020), who found 40.2% in Dodola. Conversely, the finding was higher than those reported by Aregawi *et al.* (2024) in a recent systematic review focusing on the Horn of Africa, where prevalence rates of cyst in cattle ranged from 0.9% to 25.8%.

In the present study high prevalence of bovine hydatid cyst was recorded in the local cattle breed 18.78% than cross breed 11.32% , which is align with Ermias . (2019) reported comparable findings in Denber Birhan, hydatid cyst of 30.10% in local breeds and 19.20% in crossbreeds. This suggests that the exposure to risk factors is likely uniform across different sexes and breeds, possibly due to animals being equally susceptible regardless of their genetic background. A higher prevalence of hydatid cyst was recorded in older cattle aged over 9 years, with an infection proportion of 27.3%, compared to cattle aged 5-9 years with infection proportion 16.81%, and younger cattle aged 3-5 years with an infection proportion 12.72%. These findings align with previous research, such as Zewdu *et al.* (2010), who reported 22.91% in older cattle and 6.78% in adults; Mandefro *et al.* (2019), with 66.1% in old and 29.5% in adult animals; Akeberegna *et al.* (2017), noting 8.71% in old and 2.8% in adults; and Kebede and Mekonnen (2020), who found 43.4% in old and 19.0% in adult cattle. Similarly, Ermias G. (2019) in Dember Birhan observed a prevalence of 28.6%, with 14.5% in adults and 42.9% in older cattle. The increased hydatid cyst prevalence in older animals may be attributed to prolonged exposure to the infection, allowing more time for hydatid cyst development and possibly a decline in immune function due to longer exposure periods.

In the current study slaughtered Cattle with poor body condition score tend to have higher infection, with moderate and good condition animals showing comparatively lower prevalence. This pattern aligns with findings by Melaku *et al.* (2012) and Bezuayehu *et al.* (2014). One possible reason is that animals in poor condition may, severe infections can impair growth and performance, decrease meat and milk quality, and cause weight loss, as explained by Polydoros (2021) and Himonas (2001). In the present study except among the cattle age categories (  $p = 0.001^*$ ) and body condition score(  $p = 0.000^*$ ) there was no statistical significant association between the prevalence of hydatid cyst and all potential risk factors.

In the current study cystic echinococcosis was frequently encountered in the liver, followed by lungs, heart and kidneys. This is explained by the fact that lungs and livers possess the first great capillaries sites encountered by the migrating echinococcus oncosphere (hexacanth embryo) which adopt the portal vein route and primarily negotiate hepatic and pulmonary filtering system sequentially before any other peripheral organ is involved (Kebede *et al.*, 2009a, 2009b). In addition, that ruminant is slaughtered at older age. During this period the liver capillaries are dilated and most cysts directly pass to the lungs. Additionally, it is possible for the hexacanth embryo to enter the lymphatic circulation and be carried via the thoracic duct to the heart and lungs in such a way the lungs may be infected before or instead of the liver (Romig *et al.*, 2017).

In the current study, the predominant size of the hydatid cysts was seen to be small. The high proportion of small cysts may indicate late infection of the animals due to immunological response of the host which might preclude expansion of cyst size. The fertility rate of cysts was higher in lungs than liver due to softer consistency of lung tissue which allows easier development of the cysts and favors their fertility rate (Getaw *et al.*, 2010). The economic loss due to cystic echinococcosis in the current study was the sum of direct economic loss, the loss associated with condemned organs and the indirect economic loss that is the loss associated with reduced carcass weight.

The questionnaire survey indicated that hydatidosis is not familiar to the communities in the study areas, as the majority of the respondents reported that they did not hear or aware about hydatidosis. This is consistent with other studies in Tanzania, majority of the respondents have not aware of (Ernest *et al.*, 2009) hydatidosis and in Iran found that very low level of knowledge about hydatidosis in the pastoralist. Higher proportion of the respondents closed

contact with non dewormed dogs. The close association of people with dogs especially children who can acquire this disease when they are still young and signs come later in life further exacerbates this factor. Similar results reported in Tanzania, many households (89.1%) had dogs which did not deworm regularly and managed under free-range system (Ernest *et al.*, 2009) . This idea was supported by (Gathura and Kamiya, 1990) that they reported with high incidence rate in the northern (higher contacted of dogs) than in the southern Kenya due to cultural difference.

Backyard slaughter of cattle and disposal of raw condemned organs through offering to dogs were the common practice, a situation which may lead to the increased environmental parasitic load. Similar results were observed in Tanzania, majority of community had their dogs managed freely with feed raw condemned materials to their dogs (Ernest *et al.*, 2009)

In this study, only a small proportion (14%) of the participants had an awareness of hydatidosis. This is low compared to with the work of Tigre (2012) who reported that 32.2% of the study participants had an awareness of hydatidosis. The awareness level of participants in this study was similar to that reported by (Kebede *et al.* 2010) and (Zelalem, 2012) who indicated an awareness level of 15% of the households had awareness about zoonotic hydatid cyst.

In this study, 60 % of the participants owned dog(s) and 36% of them said they let their dogs freely roam outside of their house. The presence of large numbers of non-restricted dogs plays a crucial role in contaminating the environment with hydatid cyst which could subsequently infect humans. Among the dog owners, 94% of them reported that they fed offal to their dogs regardless of the safety status of the offal. Feeding the viscera of infected slaughter animals to dogs was reported to facilitate the transmission of the *Echinococcus granulosus* and this was suggested to consequently increase the risk that humans will become infected (Moro and Schantz, 2009).

The total annual economic loss due to bovine hydatidosis was estimated to be 1,952,756.4 ETB which is important to establish a health center in one district. The indirect economic loss in this study was significantly higher than direct economic loss indicating the widespread nature of hydatid cyst and moderate degree of livestock infestation rate in Mendi town. Backyard slaughter, poor veterinary services, resistance to the commonly used anthelmintics (Schantz *et al.*, 1982; Enrico Brunetti, 2023), the abundant nature of stray dogs, and wandering of animals in an open pasture allowing contact with dogs might be associated as major reasons for the exaggerated economic loss documented in the current study

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The current study finding indicated the bovine Hydatid cyst in slaughtered cattle at the Mendi municipal abattoir. Besides its animal and public health risks, hydatidosis attributed meaningful financial losses from organ condemnation and carcass weight loss. The questionnaire survey in this study showed that the major predisposing factors which contribute to persisting of the diseases in the study area were free access of dogs to offal, inappropriate disposal of offal, widespread stray dogs and inadequate animal health services. Lack of community knowledge on transmission, zoonosis, treatment and control of hydatidosis were potential factors for public health risk. Thus, the development of effective disease management and awareness creation are required to overcome these problems.

Based on the above conclusions, the following recommendations were forwarded

- Sustainable and integrated control strategies against hydatidosis should be designed and implemented.
- Stake holders, butchers, abattoir workers and meat sellers in the area shall also implement parasitic lifecycle breaking the control and prevention methods.
- Focused awareness creation program is required to avoid the improper disposal of condemned offal's, denying access of dogs into raw offal, stray dogs and for appropriate animal management.
- Adequate animal health services especially worm control should be implemented.
- Public education on zoonosis, transmission and control mechanism is required.
- Further detail epidemiological studies involving different species of livestock, dogs, wildlife, and humans in different zones of Ethiopia is required to establish a clear information system for launching a control programme.

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