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Polymerase chain reaction compared with wet mount for detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis* in women

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Abstract: background: Trichomonasis is a common cause of vaginitis. It is a sexually transmitted infection, and is caused by the single-celled protozoan parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis* producing mechanical stress on host cells and then ingesting cell fragments after cell death. **Objective**: The present study aimed to compared between wet mount and polymerase chain reaction for detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis* in symptomatic women.
Methods: A total of (94) Vaginal swabs were collected from symptomatic women suspected to trichomonaisis and attending to gynecology of Al-eskandaria hospital in Babylon province. All samples were examined by wet mount and PCR technique for detection of *T. vaginalis*. Specific primers used to amplify a 112bp piece of the β-tubulin gene of *T. vaginalis.*
Results: In this study 94 vaginal swaps were collected (19.1%) was positive for wet mount and (27.6%) was positive for PCR technique while (12.7%) was positive for both wet mount and PCR. the high prevalence of trichomonasis observed among the age group (30-40) followed by (20-29) then the older age group(>40). Vaginal discharge is most common symptoms among patients(13.8%) when used PCR technique while (8.5%) in wet mount. In addition of these women with contraceptive device appear more susceptible to infection with *T. vaginalis* in compare with non users contraceptive device.
Conclusion: From the results of this study we conclude that PCR technique is a best method for diagnosis of *T. vaginalis* infection in compare with wet mount.

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