

## **ABSTRACT**

Larval toxocarosis is a worldwide widespread zoonosis occurring in developed countries as well as developing countries. The disease is caused by roundworms of the genus *Toxocara*, primarily intestinal parasites of dogs, cats and other animals. Viable eggs released into the environment with the dog's faeces can infect not only definitive hosts, but also paratenic hosts, which include many vertebrates, some invertebrates, and also humans. In humans, larval migration can cause severe and irreversible tissue damage, which is characterized by various clinical forms of the disease.

For the purposes of routine diagnosis of larval toxocarosis, the most frequently used method so far is ELISA and Western blot, which enable the reaction demonstration of specific antibodies with the larval excretory-secretory product (TES). TES is obtained for diagnostic purposes from larvae cultured in nutrient medium. The preparation of such an antigenic mixture is very laborious and may vary across the laboratories. Current research in the field of diagnosis of larval toxocarosis is therefore focused on the standardization of serodiagnostic procedures. A fundamental prerequisite is knowledge of the detailed composition of TES, especially antigenic (protein) molecules. However, the number of studies devoted to the characterization of larval TES products is still very limited.