

## **Abstract**

We investigated stool specimens of 400 patients at Jordan University Hospital (300 patients with clinical diarrhoea and 100 controls without diarrhoea) for the presence of *Clostridium difficile* or its toxin. We found a 9.7% prevalence rate of *C. difficile* or its toxin in stools of patients with diarrhoea. The prevalence of other potential enteric pathogens, such as *Salmonella* spp. (2.3%), *Shigella* spp. (1.0%) and *Entamoeba histolytica* (2.7%), was significantly less. Prevalence of *C. difficile* or its toxin in controls was 3.0%. Toxin A was detected in 93.1% of *C. difficile*-associated diarrhoea cases using an enzyme immunoassay. Our study indicates that *C. difficile*-associated diarrhoea is mostly observed among hospitalized patients aged  $\geq 50$  years, in association with antimicrobial treatment.