



Short Note on Parasitic Infection

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ABOUT THE STUDY

Parasites are organisms that feed on other organisms and hosts to survive. Some parasites do not have a noticeable effect on the host. Others grow, multiply, or invade the organ system that makes the host sick, causing a parasitic infection. Parasitic infections are a major problem in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Malaria is one of the most deadly parasitic diseases. Common parasitic infections include trichomoniasis, giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis, and toxoplasmosis. Sepsis, sometimes mistakenly called blood poisoning, is an often fatal reaction of the body to an infection. Sepsis, which kills and incapacitates millions, requires early suspicion and treatment to survive. Sepsis and septic shock that can result from an infection anywhere in the body like pneumonia, influenza, or urinary tract infection. One-third of people around the world who develop sepsis die. Many survivors have life-changing effects such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), chronic pain and malaise, organ dysfunction (organs are not functioning properly). Symptoms of parasitic infections vary depending on the organism.

- Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted disease caused by parasites and often does not cause symptoms. In some cases, itching, redness, inflammation, and abnormal secretions of the genitals may occur.
- Giardiasis can cause diarrhea, bloating, upset stomach, greasy stools, and dehydration.
- Cryptosporidium disease can cause gastric spasms, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dehydration, weight loss, and fever.
- Toxoplasmosis can cause flu-like symptoms such as swollen lymph nodes and muscle aches and pains that can last for more than a month. Parasite infections can be caused by three types of organisms: protozoa, helminths, and ectoparasites.

Giardiasis infection

The infection usually heals spontaneously within a few weeks. If the infection is severe or does not go away, your doctor may

prescribe medications such as metronidazole (Flagyl), tinidazole (Tindamax), and nitazoxanide (Alinia).

Chagas disease

The anthelmintic drugs benznidazole and nifurtimox kill the parasite, but other treatments may be needed to manage complications such as arrhythmias.

Tapeworm

The most commonly used drugs to kill tapeworms are praziquantel (Biltricide), albendazole (Albenza), and nitazoxanide (Alinia). However, if the infection progresses and becomes more invasive, surgery may be required to remove the cysts caused by anti-inflammatory drugs, anti-seizure drugs, shunts that drain water from the brain, or tapeworms.

Roundworm

There are many types of roundworm, so the treatment depends on the infection. The most commonly used drugs for roundworms are mebendazole (Vermox), albendazole (Albenza), and ivermectin (Stromectol). If your intestines are blocked, surgery may be needed to remove the worm.

There are several steps you can take to reduce the risk of parasite infection: practice safe sex with condoms, wash your hands regularly, especially after handling uncooked food or feces, cook the food to the recommended core temperature, when traveling, drink clean water, including bottled water, avoid swallowing water from lakes, streams, and ponds, avoid cat litter and feces during pregnancy. Talk to your doctor if you suspect a parasite infection. They will help you diagnose the cause of your symptoms and recommend a treatment plan. Early treatment can prevent the infection from spreading to others.

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