

Worm Infestation

And homeopathic literature is full of references and data which evidences use of homeopathy for worm infestation. Some remedies working as a sure shot in majority of cases.

Introduction

When **worms like** roundworms, whipworms, hookworms, tapeworms and flukes affect the intestines and other parts of the body, **Worm infestations** happens. No symptom is shown in a patient with a mild **infestation** but some may have itching around the anal area. Worm infestation is one of the most common finding among children especially in developing countries. There are different kinds of worms which are pathogenic to human body. The most common ones are Ascariasis, Trichuriasis, Hookworm, and Enterobiasis which are transmitted through contaminated soil.

Etiology

The most common cause of unhygienic conditions. Sometimes teething is also a phase which is associated with worm infestation as during teething infants tend to put their hands/ fingers in mouth due to gum irritation. Worm infestation is more common in rural areas as compared to Urban population. It's a common condition in India. Basic causes can be listed as:

- Consumption of undercooked meat
- Consumption of contaminated water

- Consumption of contaminated soil
- Contact with contaminated feces
- Poor sanitation
- Poor hygiene

Clinical findings/ Symptoms

- Irritability
 - Weight loss
 - Stomach ache
 - Bed wetting
 - Blood in stools
 - Failure to thrive
 - Respiratory symptoms causing wheezing and chronic cough
- Each worm infection also has its own peculiar symptoms:
- Tapeworm infection – Jaundice, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, eating too frequently and sometimes even malnutrition
 - Roundworm infection – Diarrhea, passing worms with stools, dry cough, fever
 - Pinworm infection – Itching around the anus, trouble sleeping due to itching, painful urination

Serious symptoms

- Blood or pus in your stool
- Frequent vomiting daily or frequently
- Elevated body temperature/ Fever
- Extreme fatigue and dehydration

Diagnosis

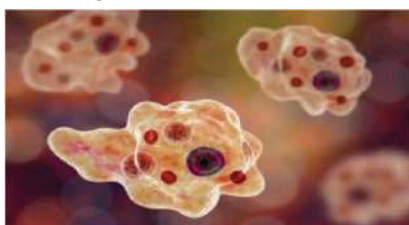
- Test of Stool –Ideally a three consecutive test is able to catch the ova, cyst or worm.
- Test of Scotch tape - involves applying tape to the anus several times in order to retrieve pinworm eggs, which can be identified under a microscope.
- If no egg or worm is detected, then blood test is done to look for antibodies produced when it's infected with a parasite.
- X-ray or imaging tests such as computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) depending on the extent or location(s) of disease suspected.

Types of Worms

1. Amoebiasis

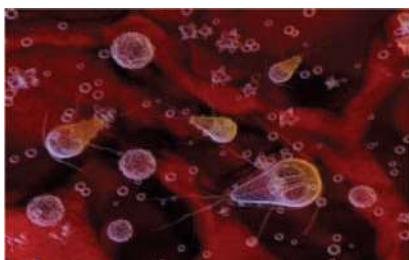
Infection with *Entamoeba histolytic* is called as Amoebiasis. It is caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with parasite cysts. These organisms invade the intestinal mucosa or may disseminate to other organs, especially the liver. Food handlers carrying amebic cysts play a role in spreading the infection. Direct contact with infected feces may be responsible from person-to-person transmission. The onset is usually gradual with colicky abdominal pains and frequent bowel

movements. Stools are blood stained and contain a fair amount of mucus with few leukocytes. Symptoms are fever, chills and severe diarrhea. In children, fever is the hallmark of amebic liver abscess which is associated with abdominal pain and an enlarged, tender liver.



2. Giardiasis

Infection with these is more prevalent in children with malnutrition or immunodeficiencies. Symptoms are diarrhea, weight loss and failure to thrive. Water supply is the most important factor; its quality should be routinely monitored. The concentration of chlorine required for control, particularly in communities dependent on surface water with no sand filtration needs to be determined.



3. Other Intestinal Protozoa

Infection of children with Balantidium coli or Isosporahominis may be associated with vague gastro intestinal complaints such as abdominal pain, distention and diarrhea. B. coli may invade the intestinal mucosa causing bloody diarrhea and ulcerations. Diagnosis of either infection is made by fecal examination.



4. Nematodes (Roundworms)

These may infect either directly by ingestion of mature eggs or indirectly via larval penetration of skin. The adult stages of all these nematodes live in the lumen of the intestinal tract, do not multiply in the human host, and are not associated with peripheral blood eosinophilia.



5. Cestodes (Tapeworms)

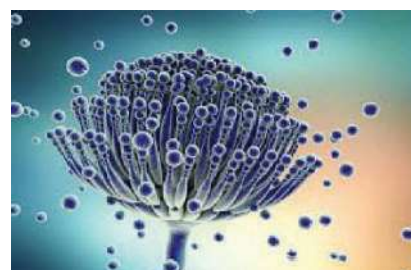
In the most Cestode infections of man, adult worms parasitize the gastro intestinal tract and cause little or no clinical morbidity except when they interfere with host nutrition. Major clinical syndromes may occur, however, when man is infected with the larval stages of some Cestodes which disseminate and can cause disease in any Internal organ.



6. Aspergillosis

This is caused by a monomorphic fungus of the genus Aspergillus. This mold has a worldwide distribution in soil and decaying vegetation. Although exposure to aspergillus spores is frequent, disease is uncommon. Infection is most often acquired from inhalation of airborne spores which gain access to the paranasal sinuses or lower respiratory tract. Spores may also gain access to the body following ingestion, aspiration, or surgical instrumental or following skin and wound

contamination. Symptoms include recurrent episodes of wheezing, pulmonary infiltrates and eosinophilia.



Treatment

Preventive Measures

- **Washing Hands** - before and after using the toilet and before preparing or eating foods.
- **Fruits and vegetables** - all raw should be washed and cooked them properly
- **Avoid** – raw fish and meat
- **Cooking** – meat has to be cooked at temperature of at least 145°F (62.8°C) for whole cuts of meat and 160°F (71°C) for ground meat and poultry. let cooked meat rest for three minutes before carving or consuming
- **Freezing** - fish or meat to -4°F (-20°C) for at least 24 hours
- **Avoid contact** - with soil that may be contaminated with human feces.
- **Use sanitization methods**

Homeopathy has a tremendous role in treating worm infestation. Here I would like to quote Kent where he explains that the homeopathic remedy doesn't direct towards the worms but to make the body healthy so no more worm can stay inside it. I quote Kent here. "The true physician must know that whatever it is in man that is morbid can represent itself by signs and symptoms only. These he must meditate upon earnestly, patiently and wisely, that he may find in the Materia Medica symptoms most similar. If he is heedless of the best interest of sick people, or careless in






discovering and writing down their symptoms, or too indolent to search for corresponding symptoms in the *Materia Medica*; or if he is given to making light of the symptoms he hears the patient speak of, or of the symptoms he reads in the *Materia Medica*, he will never prosper or grow wise with age, but will go the way of all such men into indolence








and levity, depending upon hired laboratory findings for the basis of a prescription. The last state of that man will be worse than the first. The man who believes that he is directing his remedies against germs, or against worms, or against a tumor the patient may have, is in extreme darkness, if he cannot perceive that a healthy man will have healthy tissue, healthy










blood, and therefore there can be no soil for germs and worms or morbid growths.”





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Medicines

S.no.	Name of the Medicine		Indications
1	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>		A good remedy for ascarides.
2	<i>Asclepias cornuti</i>		White tongue; Diuresis and inclination to stool, and still increased appetite; tickling sensation at end of penis; ascarides.
3	<i>Baryta muriatica</i>		Worm affections; foetid breath; pain in region of navel, aggr. morning; dry cough; great appetite; slimy, coated tongue; bloated abdomen; which shake the whole body, chronic, painless diarrhoea, yellow, slimy stools, vomiting, exhaustion.
4	<i>Caladium seguinum</i>		Worms in little girls travel over perineum into vagina, great irritation and even masturbation.
5	<i>Calcarea carbonica</i>		Headache, dark rings around the eyes; pale, bloated face; thirst; thick, bloated belly; aching about the navel; diarrhoea; easy perspiration from motion; scrofulosis; tapeworm after Graph.; ascarides, with hard stool; crawling in rectum, as from worms; itching at anus, as from pinworms.

6	<i>Chenopodium thelminticum</i>		Worm affections; constipation, ineffectual urging with pressure on bladder and rectum; frequent cutting pains in abdomen, especially at night, with flatulency and urging to stool; dullness in head.
7	<i>China officinalis</i>		Pain in abdomen after eating, aggr. At night; fulness of abdomen; pyrosis; pressure in stomach and retching; tremulous weakness all over.
8	<i>Cicuta virosa</i>		Sudden rigidity with jerks, followed by great relaxation and weakness; convulsions and contortions of upper part of body and limbs; tremor of hands; constriction of oesophagus; tonic contractions alternating with intermitting clonic spasms.
9	<i>Cina maritima</i>		Restless sleep, with rolling of eyes, dark rings around eyes; squinting; enlarged pupils; constant rubbing the nose; epistaxis; grinding and gnashing of teeth; face pale and cold, or red and hot; loathing of food, or great hunger; nausea, vomiting; pain in umbilical region; abdomen hard and distended; constipation; dry, hacking cough at night; feverishness; convulsive motions of head and limbs; itching of anus from pinworms.
10	<i>Colocynthis</i>		Periodical headache often alternating with abdominal spasms and pulsations, constipation; passage of lumbrici with relief.
11	<i>Dolichos pruriens</i>		Bloated, swollen abdomen, with constipation; cough most troublesome about bedtime, and for a while after going to bed; intolerable itching all over body.
12	<i>Euphorbium officinarum</i>		Loss of appetite or voraciousness at times; furred tongue; feverishness; foetid breath; bloated stomach; constipation or diarrhoea; emaciation, peevishness, wakefulness.

13	<i>Ferrum metallicum</i>		Pale, wretched complexion, easily flushing; itching at anus from pinworms, at night; involuntary micturition.
14	<i>Filix mas</i>		Gnawing and boring in bowels, aggravated by eating sweet things; constipation; loss of appetite; furred tongue; pale face; blue rings around eyes; itching of nose; irritable and cross.
15	<i>Ignatia amara</i>		Itching at anus from pinworms; convulsions, with loss of consciousness, and temporary inability to speak.
16	<i>Indigo tinctoria</i>		Convulsions resulting from worms; pain in umbilical region; cutting pain aggr. by retracting the walls of the abdomen and by pressure; frequent urging to urinate, aggr. at night.
17	<i>Phosphorus</i>		Dartings and shootings in rectum, causing children to cry out, they put their hands to the seat or wriggle about, and they appear to have worms.
18	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>		Rolling of head in children; reflex irritation of the brain from disorders of bowels; grinding of teeth at night; copious salivation; offensive odor from mouth; tongue full and broad; with a pasty coat in centre; painful diarrhoea with screaming and grinding of teeth; prolapsus ani.
19	<i>Granatum</i>		Vertigo, wavering before eyes, enlarged pupils; yellow complexion; grating of teeth; accumulation of water in mouth; changing appetite; gulping of watery fluid; vomiting; sensation of something moving in stomach; bloated bowels, colic; night colic.
20	<i>Ratanhia peruviana</i>		Ascarides with intolerable pruritus ani
21	<i>Sabadilla</i>		Vomiting of round worms, or nausea and retching, with sensation of a worm in pharynx; or in case of taenia, burning, boring and whirling in umbilical region; accumulation of water in mouth; sensation as if abdomen were sunken in; nervous symptoms from worms.

22	<i>Spigelia anthelmia</i>		Pale face; smarting in nose; sensation of a worm rising in throat; better after eating, or vomiting of all she takes, with sour rising like vinegar from stomach; pain in bowels; dry, hard cough at night, palpitation of heart.
23	<i>Sulphur</i>		Creeping in nose, creeping and biting in rectum, passage of lumbrici, ascarides and taenia; nausea before meals and faintness after dinner; restlessness at night.
24	<i>Stannum metallicum</i>		Foetid breath; hunger, cannot eat enough, except in the evening; gone feeling in epigastrium even after eating; profuse and pale urine; restlessness; the child moans during sleep or supplicates in a timid manner, amel. by lying on stomach.
25	<i>Terebinthinae oleum</i>		Burning and tingling at the anus, with sensation as if ascarides were crawling about; passes segments of tapeworm; burning in rectum lessened by applying cold water; irritability and weakness of bowels.
26	<i>Teucrium marum verum</i>		Terrible itching in anus from pinworms.

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