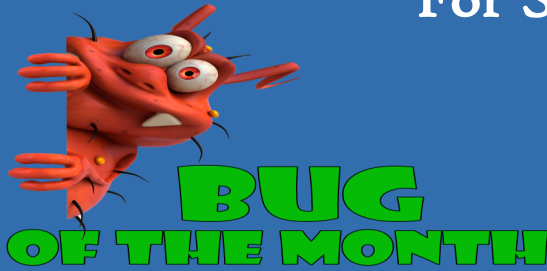


For Staff /Patient Education



Amebiasis

July 2014

What is it?

- Amebiasis is a disease caused by a one-celled parasite called *Entamoeba histolytica*.
- Although anyone can have this disease, it is more common in people who live in tropical areas with poor sanitary conditions. It is most common in:
 - √ People who have traveled to tropical places that have poor sanitary conditions
 - √ Immigrants from tropical countries that have poor sanitary conditions
 - √ People who live in institutions that have poor sanitary conditions
 - √ Men who have sex with men
- Amebiasis is a gastrointestinal infection that may or may not be symptomatic and can remain latent in an infected person for several years, amoebiasis is estimated to cause 70,000 deaths per year world wide .
- Symptoms can range from mild diarrhea to dysentery with blood and mucus in the stool. *E. histolytica* is usually a commensal organism.
- Invasion of the intestinal lining causes amoebic dysentery or amoebic colitis. If the parasite reaches the bloodstream it can spread through the body, most frequently ending up in the liver where it causes amoebic liver abscesses. Liver abscesses can occur without previous development of amoebic dysentery
- When no symptoms are present, the infected individual is still a carrier, able to spread the parasite to others through poor hygienic practices.

How is it spread?

- Transmission is by [fecal-oral route](#)
- indirectly through contact with [contaminated hands](#) or objects as well as by [anal-oral contact](#)
- When one swallows something, such as water or food, that is contaminated with *E. histolytica*.

Where is it found?

- Amoebas are found in fresh water, salt water and soil.
- They can also be found living as parasites in moist body parts of animals

Prevention & Control:

To help prevent the spread of infection:

- Standard precautions for all patients
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water after using the toilet or changing a baby's diaper, and before handling food.
- Clean bathrooms and toilets often; pay particular attention to toilet seats and taps.
- Avoid sharing towels or face washers.

To help prevent infection:

- Avoid raw vegetables when in endemic areas, as they may have been fertilized using human feces.
- Boil water or treat with iodine tablets.
- Avoid eating street foods especially in public places where others are sharing sauces in one container.
- Good sanitary practice, as well as responsible sewage disposal or treatment.

Treatment:

- Several antibiotics are available to treat amebiasis. Treatment must be prescribed by a physician.



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Source: (<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/amebiasis/>)



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