

Ascaris-As pathogenic helminth (part-4)



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Ascaris - Pathogenicity



Diagnosis of Filariasis :

- Stool microscopy :eggs may be seen on direct examination of faeces.
- Eosinophilia : eosinophilia can be found, particularly during larval migration through the lungs
- Imaging : In heavily infested individuals, particularly children, large collections of worms may be detectable on plain film of the abdomen.

Ascaris - Pathogenicity



Diagnosis (contd..)

- **Ultrasound** : ultrasound exams can help to diagnose hepatobiliary or pancreatic ascariasis. Single worms, bundles of worms, or pseudotumor-like appearance, individual body segments of worms may be seen.
- **Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)** : A duodenoscope with a snare to extract the worm out of the patient¹

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Treatment:

Infection can be treated with a dose of hexylresorcinol crystals in a gelatin capsule .

Some other anti-helminth drugs are

- Mebendazole
- Albendazole
- Pyrantel pamoate
- Ivermectin
- Piperazine citrate
- Levamisole

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Prevention:

- Prevention of infection poses a substantial problem since this parasite is abundant in soil – therefore good sanitation is needed to prevent faecal contamination of soil
- Limit using human faeces as fertilizer
- Treatment can be done on contaminated soil although it is not highly advisable

Ascaris-pathogenicity



Prevention (Contd...)

- Mass treatments of children with single doses of mebendazole or albendazole – helps reduce transmission in community but can cause reinfection
- Vegetables grown in polluted soil should be thoroughly washed and bioled before consumption.
- Finger nails should be regularly cut to avoid accumulation of egg below them and should be properly soap- washed before eating.
- If reinfection is completely checked, the worms can be got rid of in 9-12 months even if treatment is not taken.

Thank You

