

Ascariasis

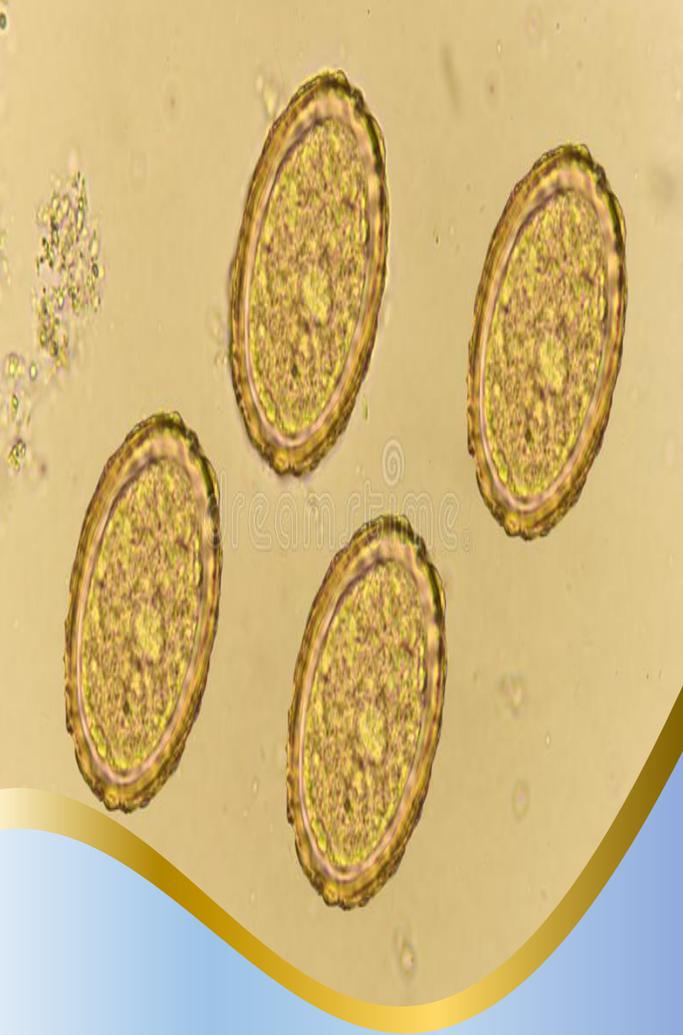
Ascaris lumbricoides

Ascaris is an intestinal parasite of humans. It is the most common human worm infection. The larvae and adult worms live in the small intestine and can cause intestinal disease.

Humans and swine are the major hosts for *Ascaris*; see Causal Agents for discussion on species status of *Ascaris* from both hosts. Natural infections with *A. lumbricoides* sometimes occur in monkeys and apes.

Occasionally, *Ascaris* sp. eggs may be found in dog feces. This does not indicate true infection but instead spurious passage of eggs following coprophagy.

can happen when **vegetables or fruits** that have not been carefully cooked, washed or peeled. People infected with *Ascaris* often show abdominal discomfort. Heavy infections can cause **intestinal blockage** and impair growth in children. Other symptoms such as cough are due to migration of the worms through the body.



Diagnose of ascariasis is done by taking a stool sample and using a microscope to look for the presence of yellowish-brown in egg.

Thick-shelled with regular albuminous mammillations

Albendazole is the drugs of choice for treatment of *Ascaris* infections, regardless of the species of worm. Infections are generally treated for **1–3 days**. The drugs are effective and appear to have few side effects.

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