

Intestinal Protozoa

A black and white micrograph showing several pear-shaped organisms, likely Giardia lamblia, which are intestinal protozoa. The organisms are arranged in a cluster, with some showing their characteristic pear shape and flagella. They are set against a dark background, and the overall image has a grainy, high-contrast appearance.

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CLASSIFICATION OF PARASITES

PROTOZOA	HELMINTHS
Unicellular Single cell for all functions	Multicellular Specialized cells
1:Amoebae: move by pseudopodia. 2:Flagellates: move by flagella. 3:Ciliates: move by cilia 4:Apicomplexa(Sporozoa) tissue parasites	<u>Round worms (Nematodes):</u> - elongated, cylindrical, unsegmented. <u>Flat worms :</u> - Trematodes: leaf-like, unsegmented. - Cestodes: tape-like, segmented.

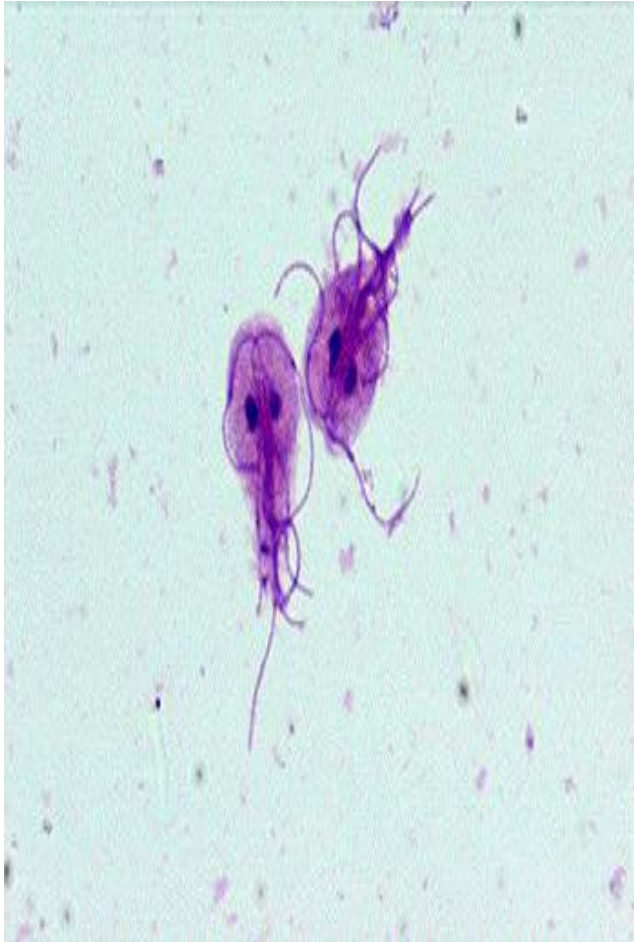
Giardia Lamblia

Trophozoite

Cyst

Giardia cyst
(light microscope)

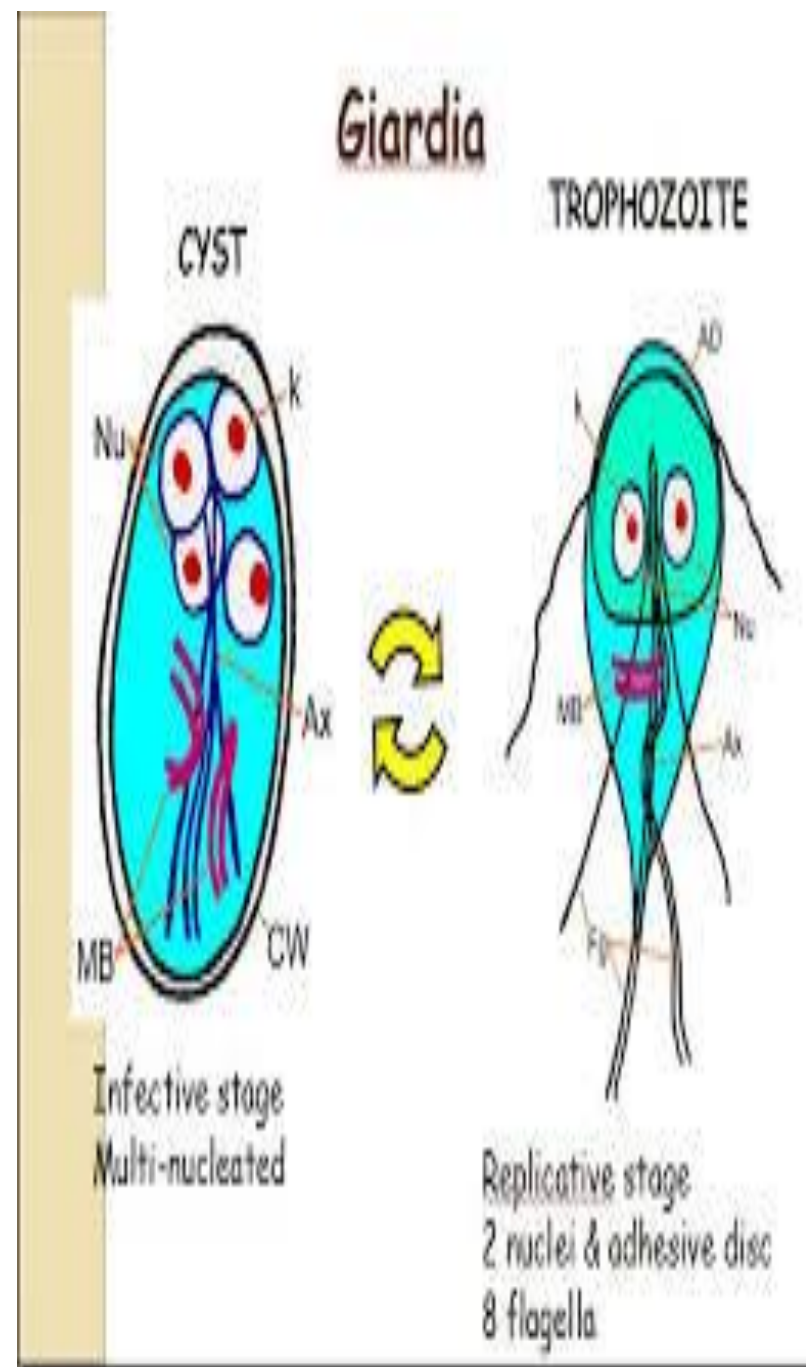
INFECTIVE STAGE



Giardiasis is transmitted via the fecal-oral route with the ingestion of **CYST(the infective stage)**.

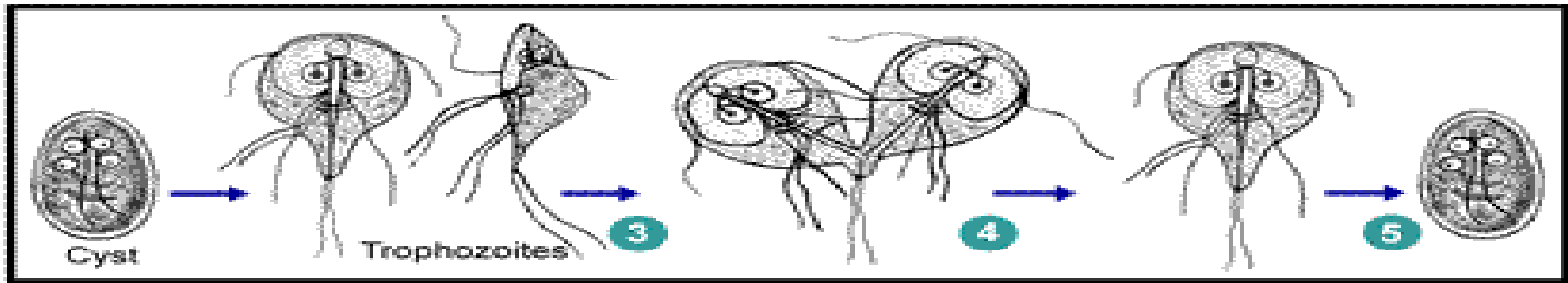
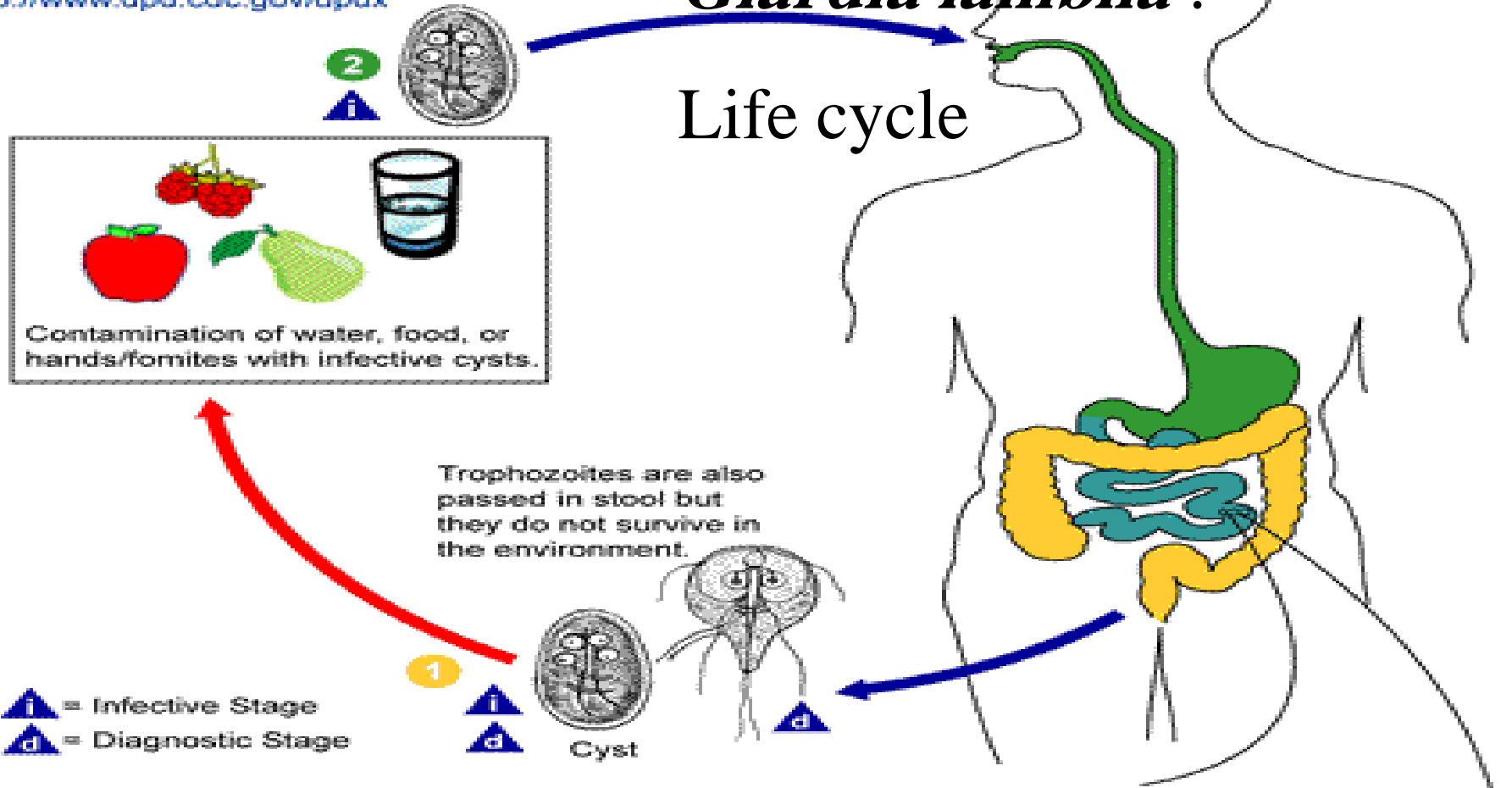
These cysts can stay infectious in the environment for more than 3 months
These cysts can resist the stomach acidity.

After ingestion of the cysts and then cysts pass the stomach acidity , ex-cystation take place in small intestine to produce **TROPHOZOITE**
Trophozoite can multiply by binary fission and responsible for causing the disease : diarrhea ,vomiting ,excessive gas and loss of appetite especially in children.



Giardia lamblia :

Life cycle



Infective stage only CYST

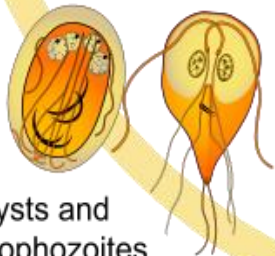
Ingestion of dormant cysts



cyst can survive for weeks to months in cold water



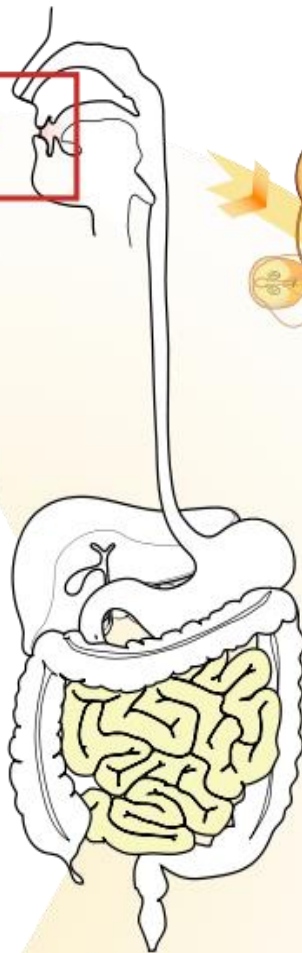
Only cysts can survive outside of the host.



cysts and trophozoites expelled in the feces



Encystation during transit toward the colon.



Excystation
trophozoite emerge to an active state



trophozoite undergo asexual replication

Diagnostic stage cyst and trophozoite in stool

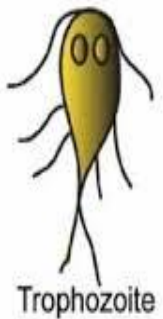


Not Everyone exhibit symptoms.



Cyst

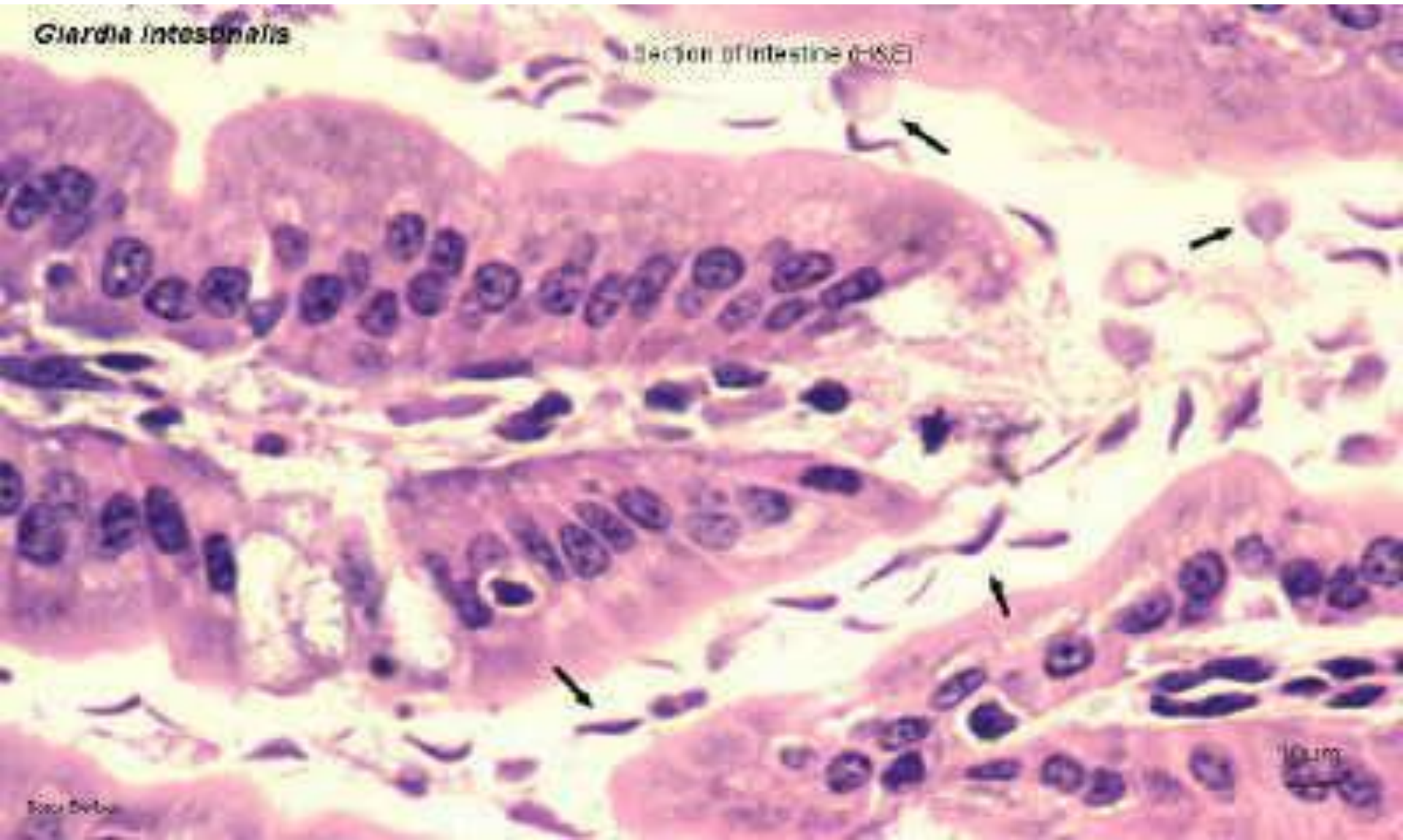
Encysting
←
→
Excysting



Trophozoite

Giardia trophozoites in tissue section

Seen by duodenal aspirate



Giadriasis: Clinical Picture.

The parasite mostly asymptomatic or can produce a wide range of gastrointestinal symptoms especially in children. .

Symptomatic Infections:

Typical picture: IP 1-2 wks followed by diarrhea ,vomiting &flatulence for about 6 wks,

Atypical : Severe diarrhoea , malabsorption especially in children and cholecystitis.








Giardiasis: Laboratory diagnosis

- **Stools examination :**
 - Microscopy for cysts or trophozoites
 - Detection of Giardia antigens in stools
- **Examination of duodenal biopsy :**
trophozoites

Giardiasis: Chemotherapy

- **Drug of choice: Metronidazole**

Intestinal Amoebae

Stained	<i>Entamoeba coli</i>	<i>Endolimax nana</i>	<i>Iodamoeba bütschlii</i>	<i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i>	<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	<i>Entamoeba dispar</i>	<i>Entamoeba hartmanni</i>
Cytoplasm inclusions	With haematoxylin, stains bluish-grey Stain black except glycogen as clear area					RBCs also stain black	
Nuclear characteristics							
Membrane	Thick	Thin	Thick	Very delicate		Delicate	
Chromatin on membrane	Coarse	None	Sometimes granular	None		Fine granules	
Karyosome	Coarse, generally eccentric	Large irregular	Large lateral	Central granules		Small central	
Fibril network	May be chromatin particles	No chromatin	No chromatin	Delicate fibrils		Not often seen	
Pathogenicity	Harmless commensal	Harmless commensal	Harmless commensal	Disputed	Invasive	Harmless commensal Non-invasive	Harmless commensal Non-invasive

ENTAMOEBA HISTOLYTICA...

500 million people are infected. 100,000 deaths per year. Worldwide distribution but is seen more often in tropical countries with poor sanitary conditions. It is a waterborne infection.

There are 6 species of *Entamoeba*:

E.histolytica

E.dispar

E.hartmanni

E.coli

E.gingivalis

E.polecki

E. histolytica vs E. dispar

***Entamoeba histolytica* :**

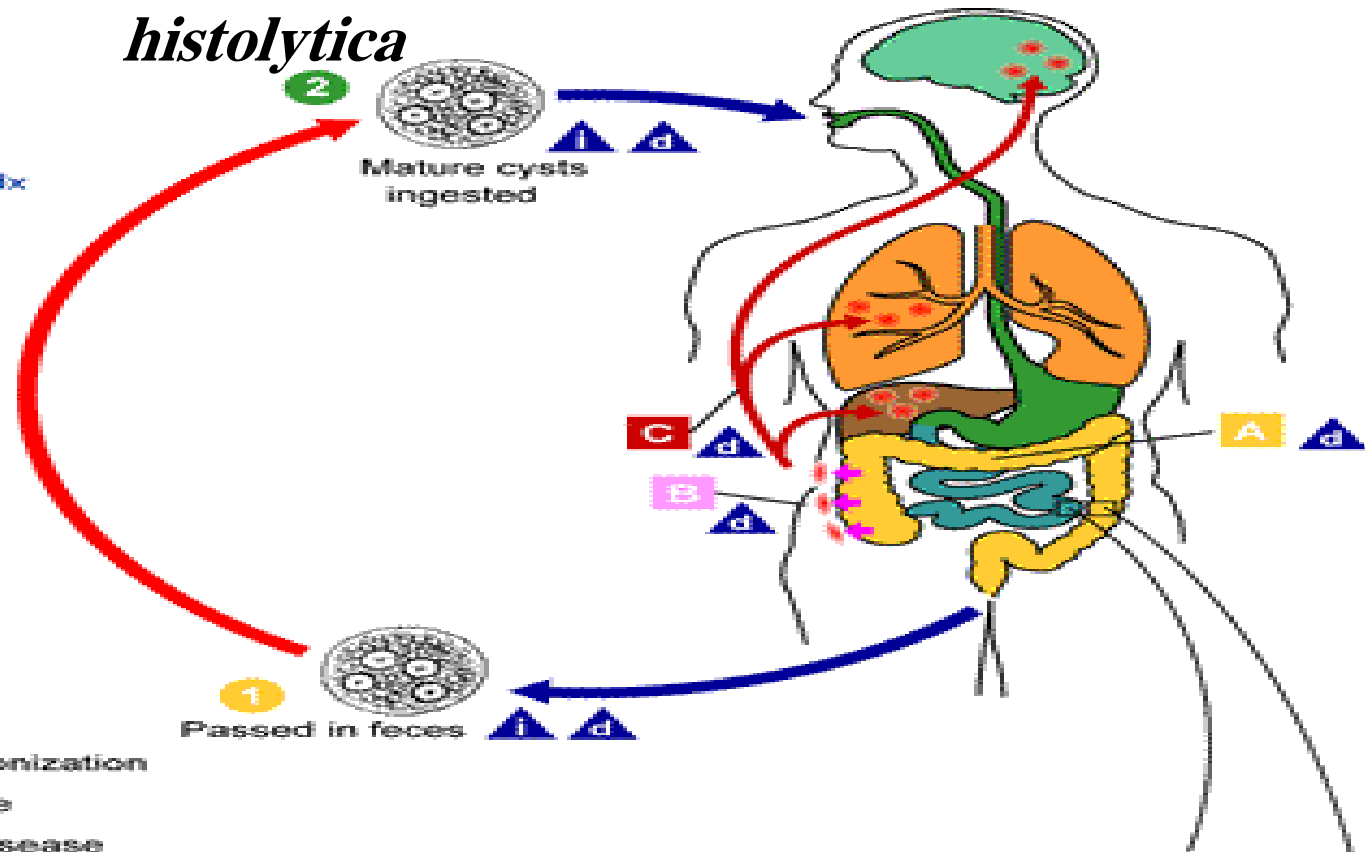
Amoebae that are pathogenic and invasive.

***E. dispar* :**

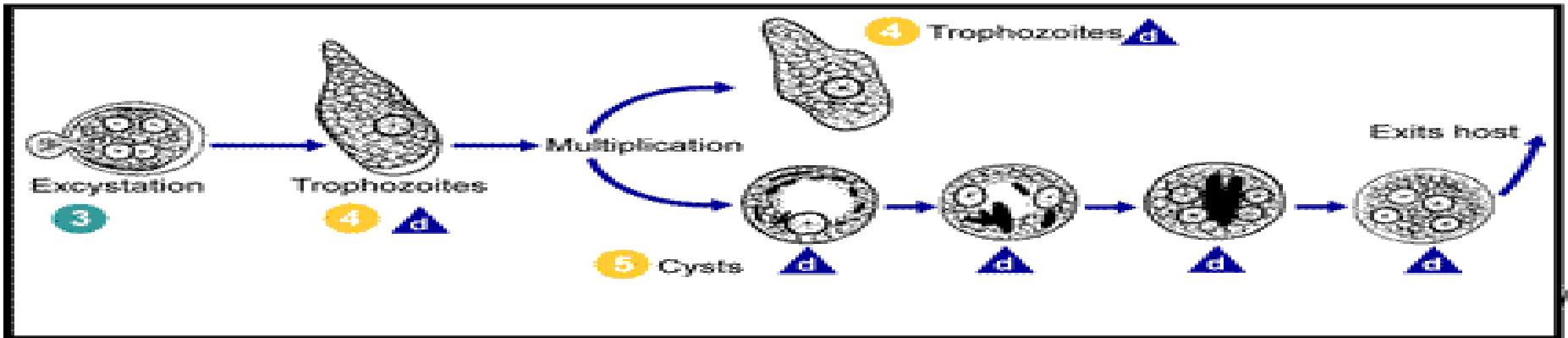
The nonpathogenic ,non invasive form .

The 2 amoebae can't be distinguish by microscopic observation.

Entamoeba histolytica

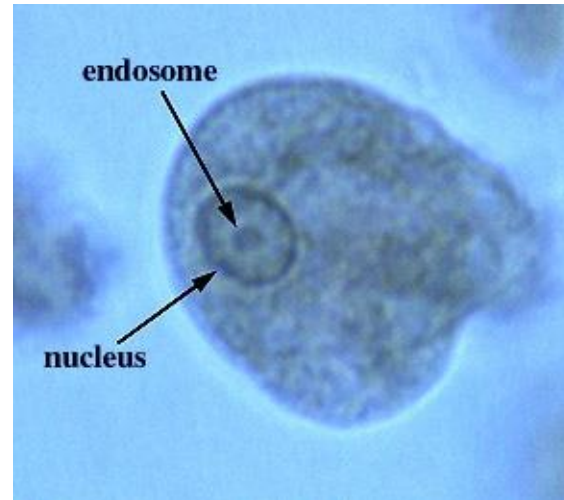


- i** = Infective Stage
- d** = Diagnostic Stage
- A** = Noninvasive Colonization
- B** = Intestinal Disease
- C** = Extraintestinal Disease

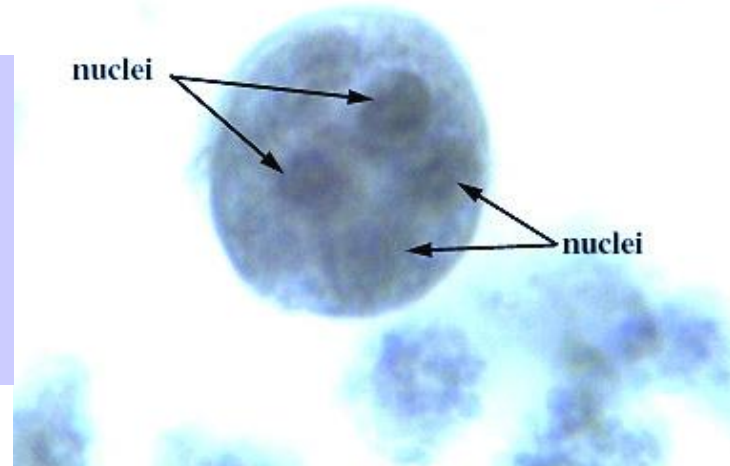


Entamoeba histolytica

Trophozoite: vegetative stage, must encyst to survive in the environment. It is a fragile structure.

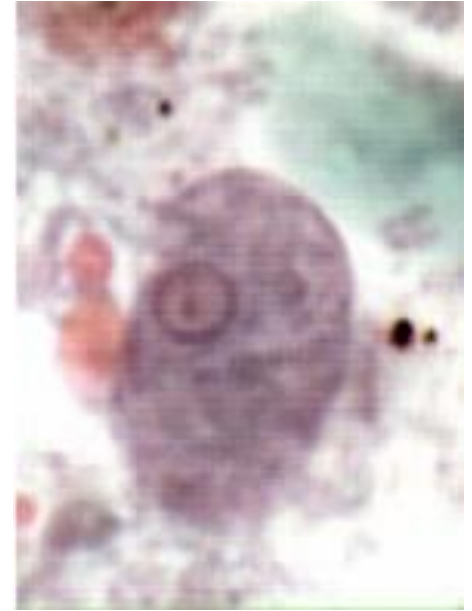
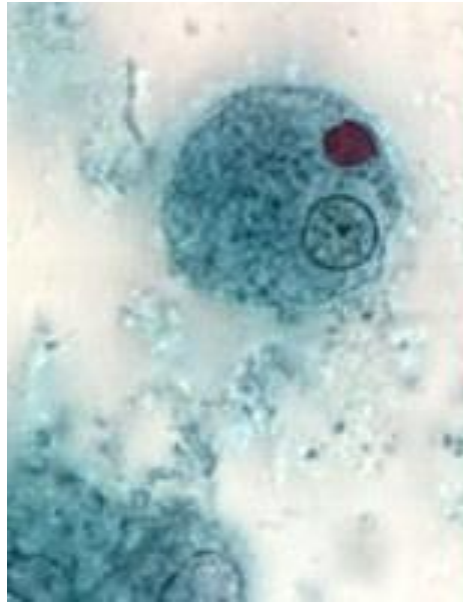


Cyst: infective stage. Resist the harsh conditions of the environment.





E. histolytica cyst



E. histolytica trophozoite

The infective stage is the cyst but we can detect both in the stool
cysts & trophozoites

Entamoeba histolytica

Mode of infection (faecal-oral route)

Water, food

Flies can act as vector..

**Can be sexually transmitted person -to -
person contacts**

Not a zoonosis

Entamoeba histolytica

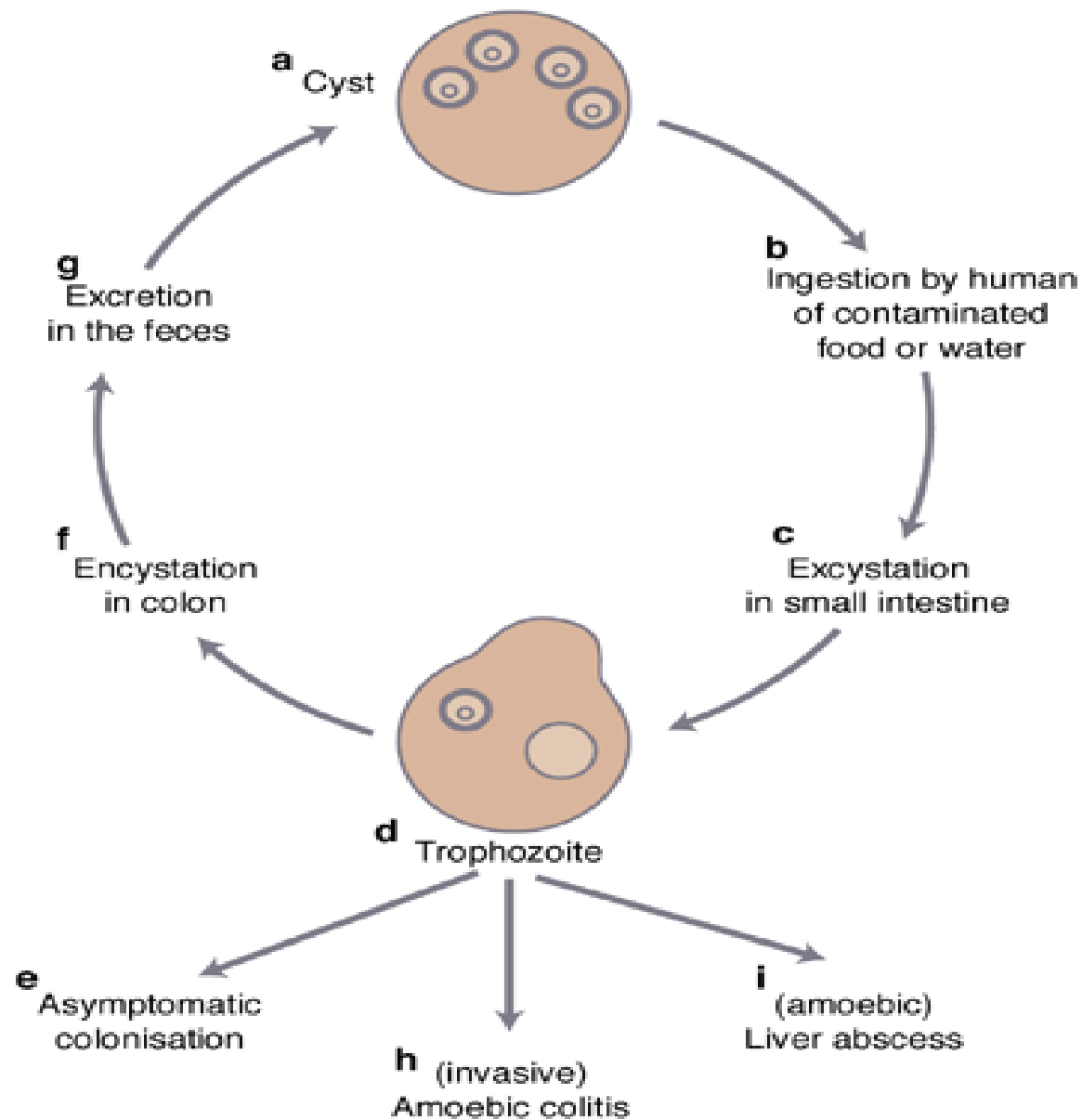
The infective dose can be as little as 1 **cyst**.

The incubation period can be from few days to few weeks depending on the infective dose. IF the **TROPHOZOITE** is ingested it disintegrates in the stomach without producing infection.

Excystation occurs in the lower region of the small intestine and then production of 8 small amoebae which enter the large intestine and may : (1) invade the tissue,

(2) live in the lumen *of large intestine* without invasion , or
(3) encyst (become cysts and pass in the stool).

Only the **Cysts** can survive in the environment for weeks at appropriate temperature and humidity after excreted from stool of infected patients.



Life cycle of *Entamoeba histolytica* and the clinical manifestations of infection in humans

Entamoeba histolytica

Intestinal amoebiasis (Acute amoebic dysentery) :

Trophozoite has the ability to hydrolyze host tissues with their active enzymes present on the surface membrane of the trophozoite (causing ulcer and tissue perforation), also trophozoite has the ability to ingest blood cells.

The presenting symptom is diarrhea which is accompanied by blood, mucus and some times tenesmus.

As a complication, severe intestinal hemorrhage or rarely perforation may occur, lesions are found in cecum, appendix or colon.

They may heal. If perforation of the colon occurs, this may lead to peritonitis that can lead to death.

Amoeboma : Granulomatous mass obstructing the bowel.

Entamoeba histolytica

cysts

1. Contaminated water or food is ingested.

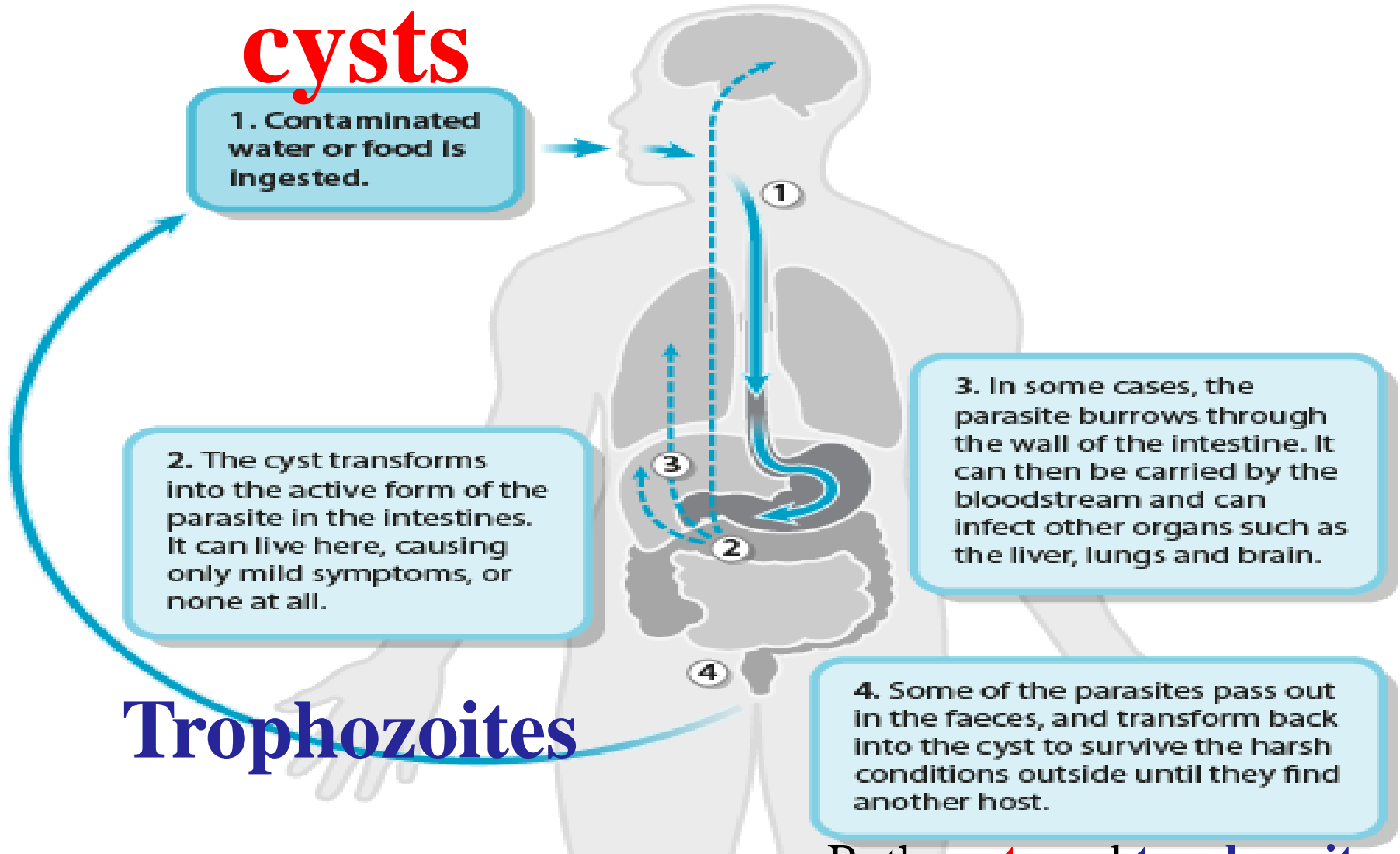
2. The cyst transforms into the active form of the parasite in the intestines. It can live here, causing only mild symptoms, or none at all.

3. In some cases, the parasite burrows through the wall of the intestine. It can then be carried by the bloodstream and can infect other organs such as the liver, lungs and brain.

4. Some of the parasites pass out in the faeces, and transform back into the cyst to survive the harsh conditions outside until they find another host.

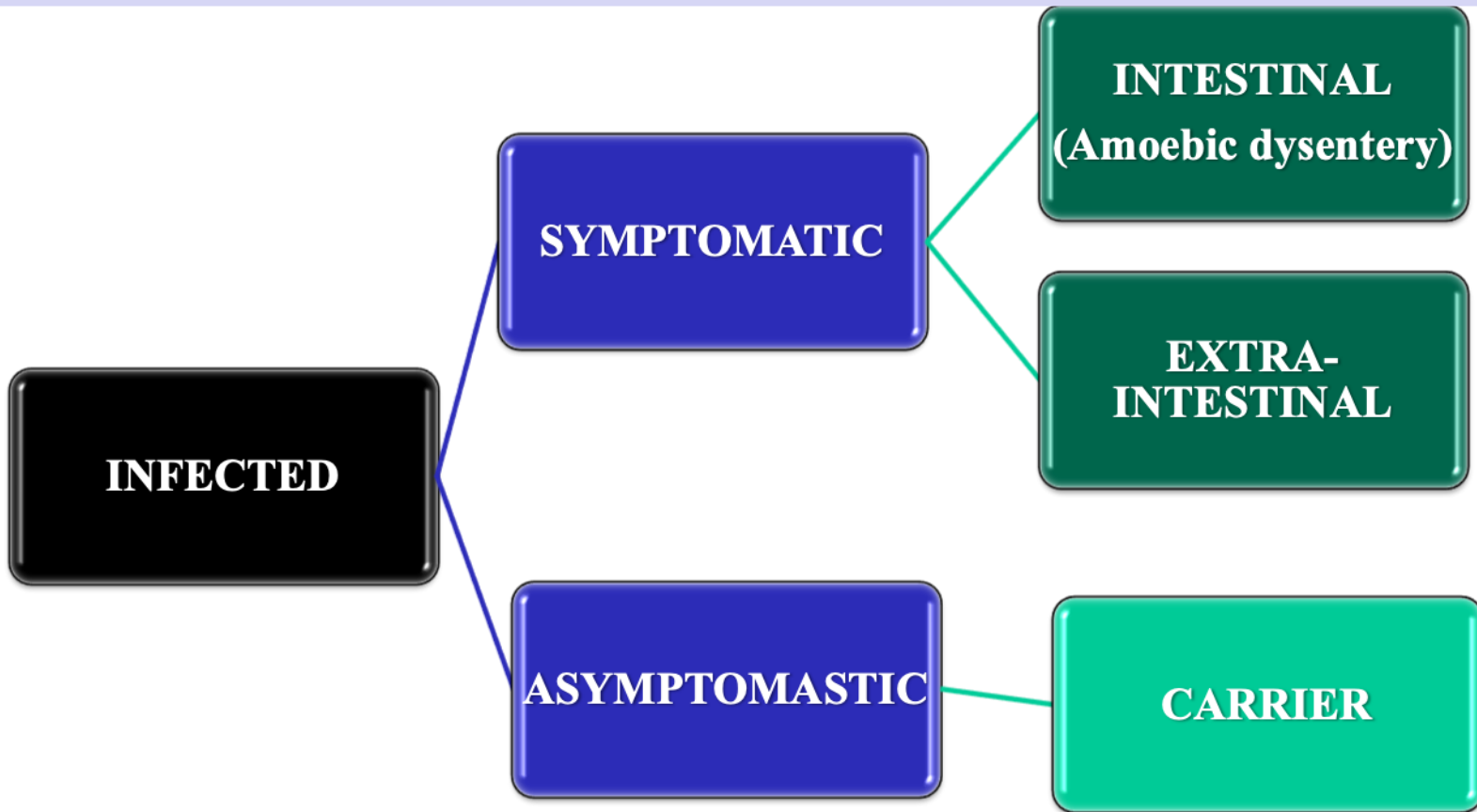
Trophozoites

Both **cysts** and **trophozoites**



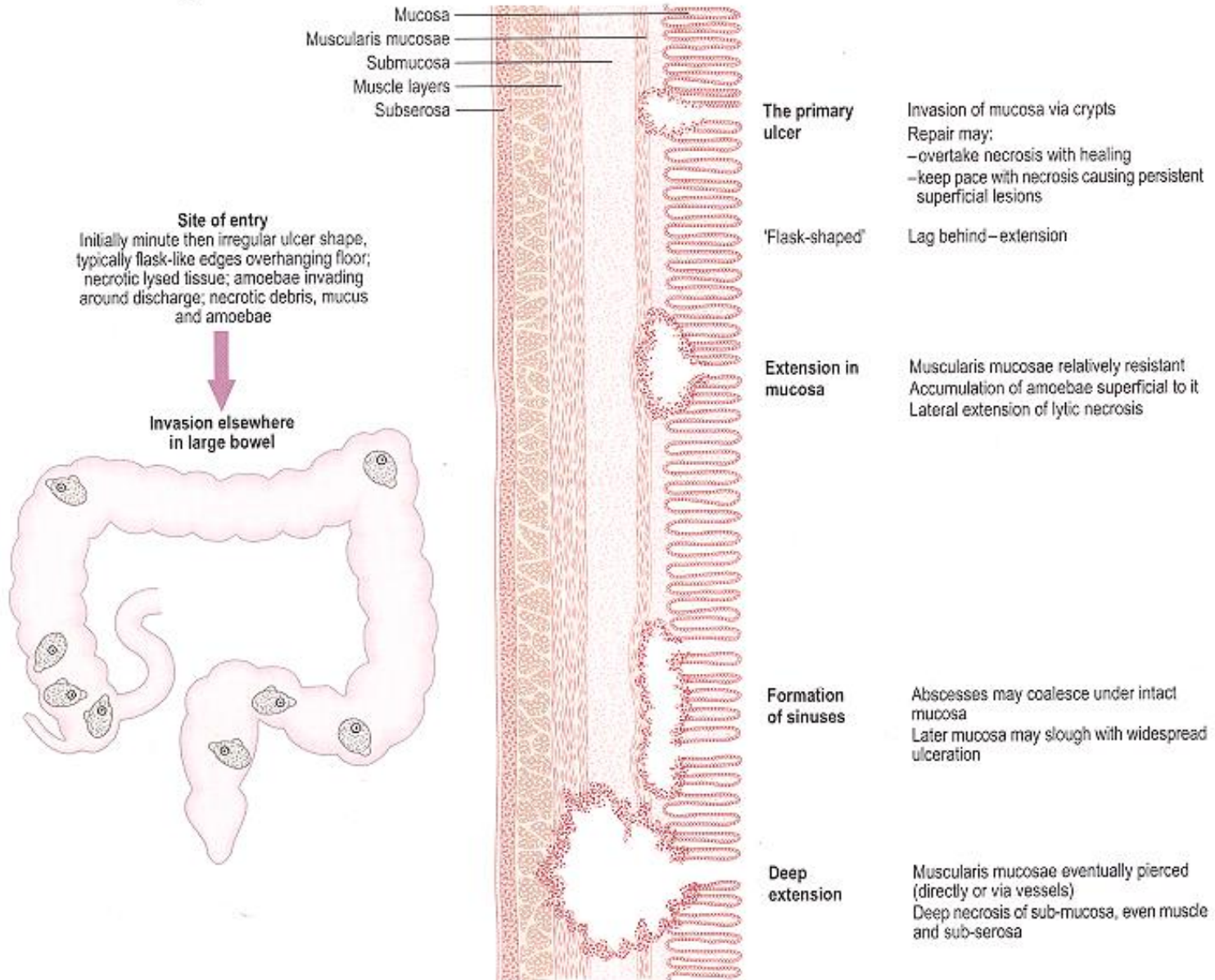
THE CLINICAL OUTCOMES OF INFECTION WITH

Entamoeba histolytica



PATHOLOGY: Intestinal amoebiasis :

Invasion of the large intestine



PATHOLOGY : Intestinal amoebiasis

Complications

Complications and sequelae

Perforation
Haemorrhage (rare)

Secondary infection

Amoeboma (rare)
(Clinically simulates neoplasm)
- intussusception
- obstruction

Invasion of blood vessels

Direct extension outside bowel



Peritonitis
Haemorrhage

Surrounding inflammatory reaction and
fibroblastic proliferation

A mass under oedematous mucosa with
- internal abscesses of necrotic tissue and amoebae
- surrounding granulomatous tissue zone with eosinophil
lymphocytes and fibroblasts
- outer firm nodular fibrous tissue

Extraintestinal lesions-page 52



Intestinal perforation



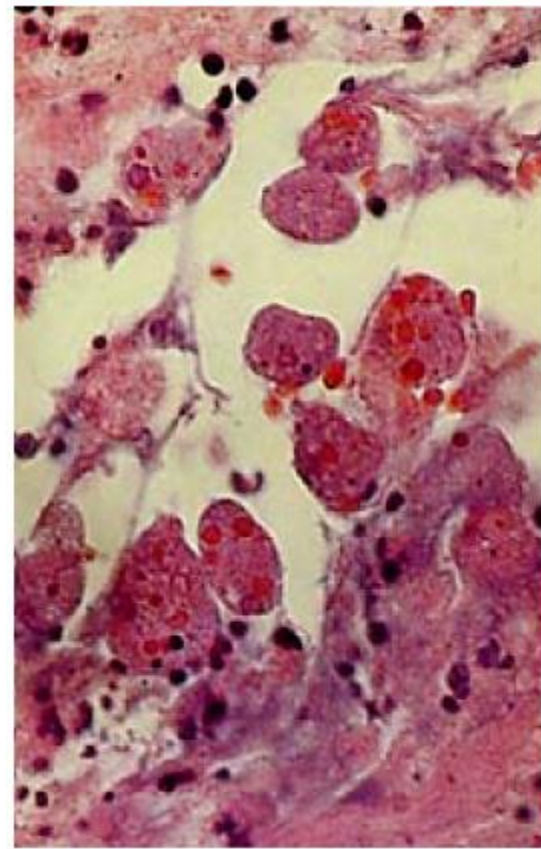
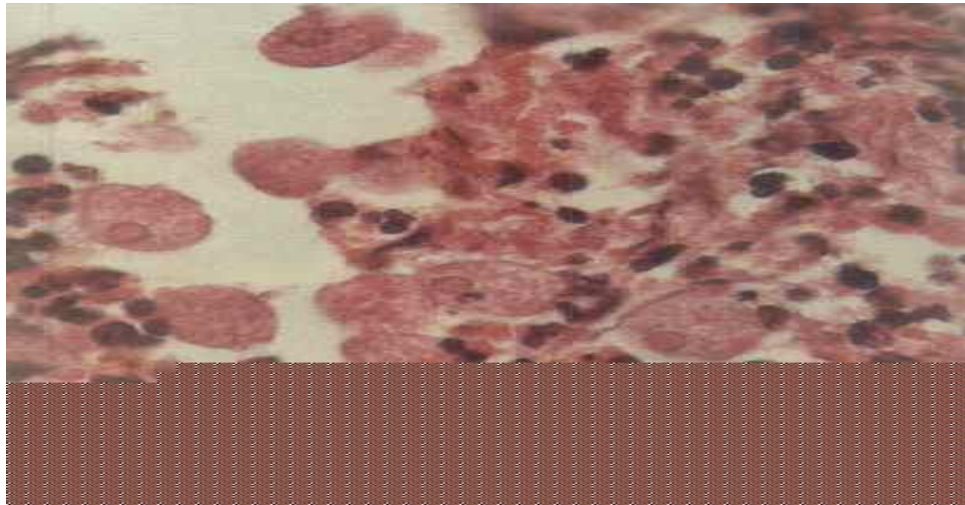
Flask shape ulcer in large intestine

PATHOLOGY

Intestinal amoebiasis :

***E. Histolytica* in mucosa.**

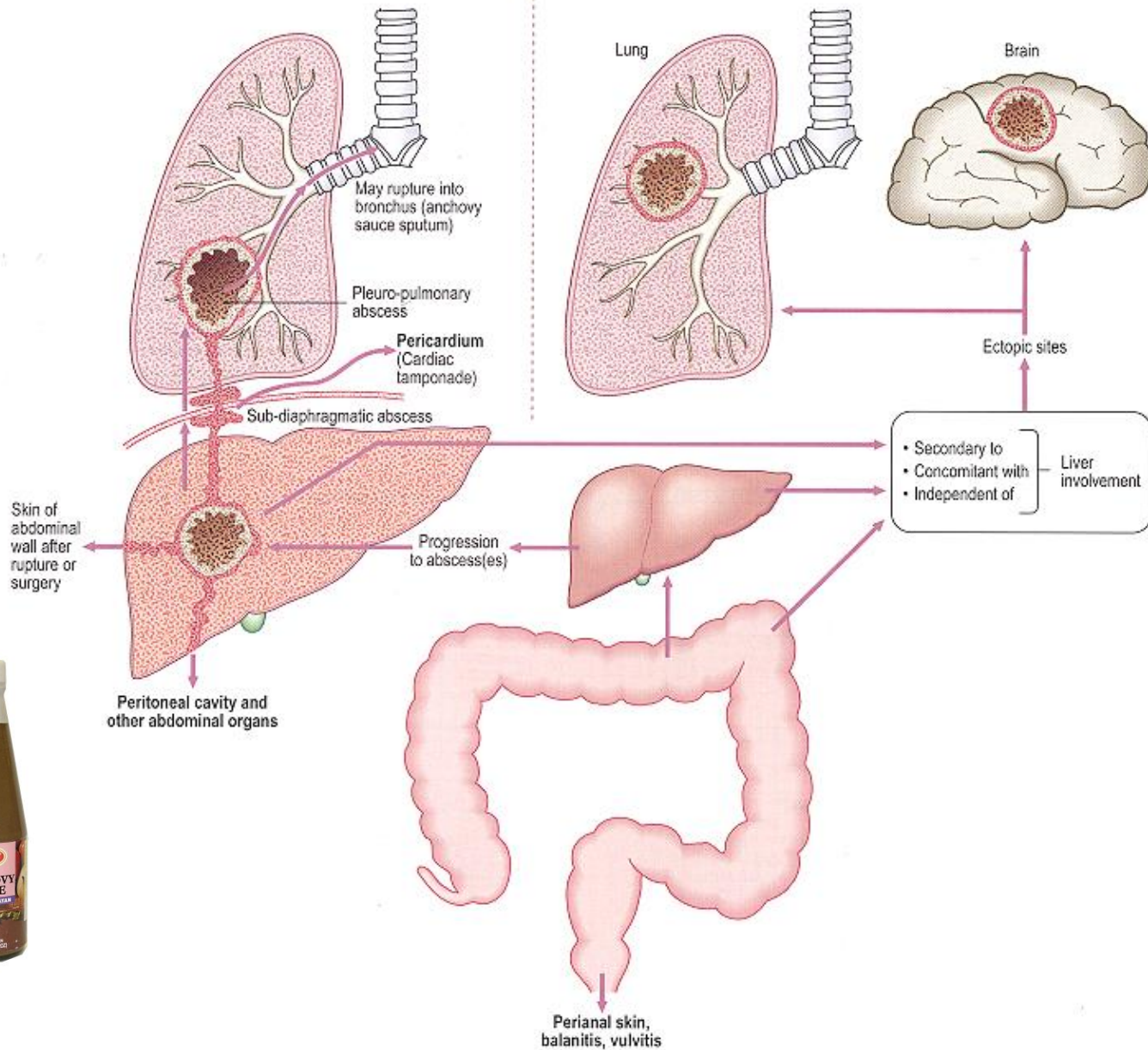
Numerous trophozoites can be seen with ingested erythrocytes.



PATHOLOGY: Extra-intestinal amoebiasis :

Direct extension

Haematogenous spread





A 30-year-old male experienced diarrhea for two weeks with fever of 39° C, nausea, vomiting, malaise and right upper abdominal pain. Physical examination revealed hepatomegaly 6 cm below the right costal margin. CT scan showed a single hypodense mass in the right lobe of 7.8 x 5.2 cm, round, with well defined borders. Serology was positive for *Entamoeba histolytica* at 1/512.

Amebic liver abscess was diagnosed.

Laboratory Diagnosis of Amoebiasis

- Intestinal :
 - Stools examination :
 - Wet mount (cysts and trophozoites)
 - Concentration methods (only cysts)
 - Serology (mainly for invasive infections):
IHA , ELISA
- Extra-intestinal:
 - Serology: IHA , ELISA
 - Microscopy of tissues or fluids

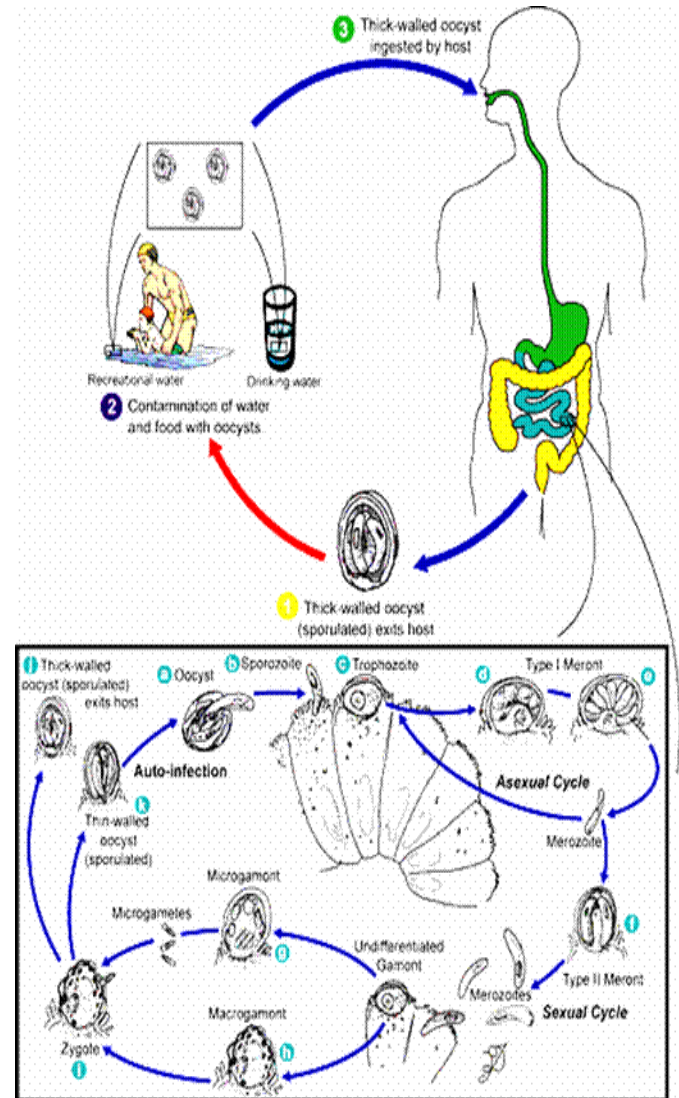
Main Drugs for Treatment of Amoebiasis

- Intestinal :
 - Symptomatic(cysts and trophozoites):
Metronidazole
- Extra-intestinal:
 - **Metronidazole**

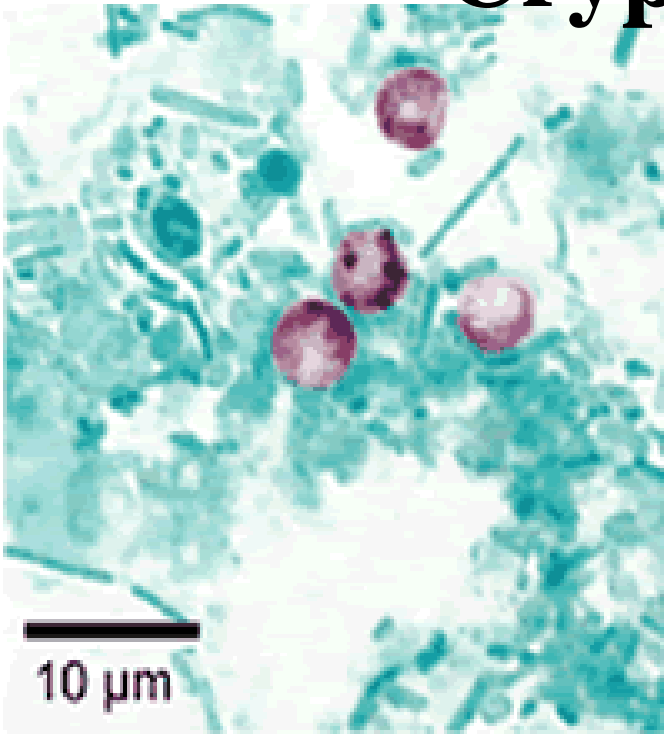
Cryptosporidium Parvum

Infection is caused by ingestion of **sporulated oocysts** transmitted by the faecal-oral route

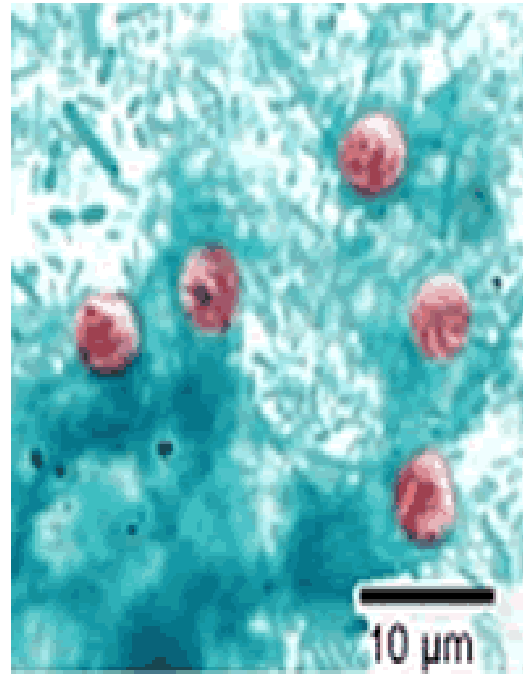
Infection is generally self-limiting in immunocompetent people. In immunocompromised patients, such as those with **AIDS** or those undergoing immunosuppressive therapy, infection may not be self-limiting, leading to dehydration and, in severe cases, death



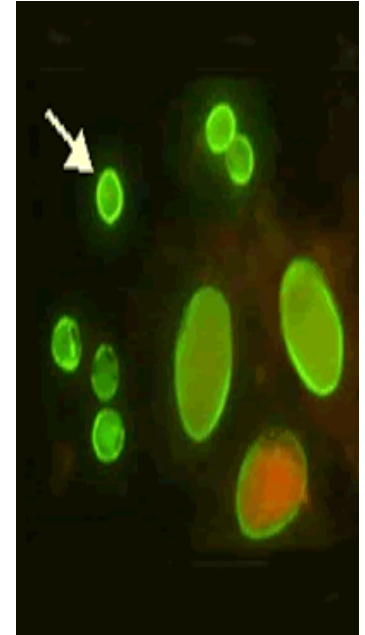
Cryptosporidium Diagnosis



Cryptosporidium oocyst in feces by stain acid-fast stain



Cryptosporidium, safranin Ziehl-Neelsen



Crypto-Gardia FAT

Cryptosporidiosis Treatment & prevention

The most effective way to prevent the spread of *C. parvum* is to avoid contact with contaminated feces. Avoiding this contact, especially with young children, Hygiene is the most effective way to combat this difficult-to-prevent parasite

- Self-limited in immunocompetent patients
- In AIDS patients : paromomycin