

Toxocarosis

Larval toxocariasis is a disease caused by the larvae of *Toxocara canis* (primary dog parasite) or *Toxocara cati* (cat parasite). Both belong to Nematoda - nematodes. **Parasitic eggs** are excreted in the faeces of infected animals and mature in the soil. A person becomes infected if his food is contaminated with such soil or if he neglects hygiene (eg washing hands). The larval stages are **trapped**, invading the host and **migrating** to the liver and lungs. **Larvae** are unable to develop in the adult, but travel the body.

They cause

- fever, hepatosplenomegaly, lymphadenopathy and shortness of breath, eosinophilia,
- if the larva enters the eye, permanent eye damage may occur due to the local inflammatory response retina.

Diagnostics

The diagnosis is made serologically using a specific EIA. In the Czech Republic, up to 18% of people are serologically positive.^[1]

Therapy

The disease usually goes away on its own, but treatment with albendazole is appropriate for severe problems. eye lesions should first be **treated with** steroids to suppress the inflammatory response. The role of anthelmintic therapy is less proven.

Links

Related articles

- Gastrointestinal parasitosis
- Diarrheal diseases
- Ascariasis

References

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