


PARASITOLOGY

Cysticerci in Brain...



DR. S. N. AG

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Taenias – Clinical Features

INFECTION	<i>T. solium</i>	<i>T. saginata</i>
Intestinal	Usually asymptomatic. May have abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, weight loss.	Usually asymptomatic. May have abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, weight loss.
Cysticercosis	Cysticerci travel to Muscles, CNS, Eye, Skin etc. → Inflammation → Calcified cysts.
May cause:	Blindness Seizures Hydrocephalus Neurological deficit	

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Taenias – Diagnosis

INFECTION	<i>T. solium</i>	<i>T. saginata</i>
Fecal Examination	Eggs or Gravid Proglottids (7-12 Lateral Branches)	Eggs or Gravid Proglottids (15-30 Lateral Branches)
Biopsy or CT Scan	Calcified Cysticerci
Hematological	Persistent Eosinophilia in presence of Cysticercosis

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Taenias – Life Cycle

FEATURE	<i>T. solium</i>	<i>T. saginata</i>
Definitive Host	Humans	Humans
Intermediate Host	Pigs	Cattle
Infective Stage	Larvae (oncospheres) in Undercooked pork Eggs in food & water contaminated by human faeces	Larvae (oncospheres) in Undercooked beef
Disease Producing Stage	Adult worms in Human intestine Cysticercosis in brain & eyes	Adult worms in Human intestine Proglottids in faeces
Diagnostic Form	Proglottids in faeces Cysticerci on Biopsy or CT Scan etc.	Proglottids in faeces
Mortality / Life Span	2 months / 25 yrs	8-10 wks / 25 yrs

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Real Common Point

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Taenias – Treatment

INFECTION	<i>T. solium</i>	<i>T. saginata</i>
Prasiquantel	May or may not work	Yes
Prasiquantel + Albendazole	Yes	Not required
Nitroscamide	As 2 nd line drug	Not required



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Clinical Scenario

• A 45 yrs. old Christian farmer, well known in the local community for his regular Barbecue parties on his farm, presented in A&E with W/D seizures. There is no recent history of drug/alcohol abuse. Ophthalmic examination revealed papilledema. The Labs showed normal LFTs & RFTs however there was a marked Eosinophilia present.

What is your diagnosis?

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Challenge

• Why were the eggs mentioned as Tritzyonated???

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Taenias – At a Glance

- Round eggs which are morphologically alike
- Pale, brownish colored scoleces
- Prorogated with 6 suckers (muscles) and hooks

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NEXT LECTURE:

- Helminths
- Platyhelminthes
 - Cestodes
 - *Echinococcus granulosus* - Dog tape worm
 - *Diphyllobothrium latum* - Fish tape worm

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DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

RAWALPINDI MEDICAL COLLEGE

