

# Giardiasis (Human Parasitic Diseases, No 3)

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## GIARDIA AND GIARDIASIS

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### Summary

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The review summarizes the information related to contemporary taxonomy of species within the *Giardia* genus. The established genotypes of *Giardia duodenalis* are presented. Data from research carried out on the main aspects of epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnosis and treatment of giardiasis in humans and animals are analyzed. The major subjects of interest for future investigations are outlined.

**Key words:** *Giardia*, giardiasis, *G. duodenalis*, zoonoses

*Giardia* is discovered soon after the invention of microscope in 1681 by Leeuwenhoek. Two hundred years later, Lambi (1859) presented its first more precise morphological description. Today, they are among the most extensively studied protozoans because of their traits as parasites and their place in the classification of single-celled organisms.

*G. duodenalis* is a cosmopolitan and the most frequent intestinal parasite among the population of developing countries. About 200 million of people in the world are with clinically manifested giardiasis, with 500,000 new cases per year (WHO, 1996). *G. duodenalis* is frequently encountered in domestic animals, mostly productive species, dogs and cats. Numerous wild mammalian and bird species are also hosts of *Giardia*.

The infections caused by *Giardia* and their pathogenic mechanisms are the best studied in men. Infected hosts shed cysts that are resistant in the environment and allow the parasite to be transmitted to another host either directly, or indirectly

through environmental contamination. Water is an essential factor in the transmission of giardiasis in men, that is why this is the commonest human water-borne disease. Together with cryptosporidiosis, it is a major health problem in utilizing water resources in developed and developing countries (Levine *et al.*, 1990; Thurman *et al.*, 1998; Hoque *et al.*, 2002; Leclercq *et al.*, 2002).

Apart men, infected animals are also involved in water contamination but their role in the epidemiology of human giardiasis is not entirely understood.

The present review aimed to collect and summarize the latest knowledge on *Giardia* in animals and men, to outline the main directions for future research on *Giardia* species and their genotypes.

### MORPHOLOGY

*Giardia* are encountered in two forms – trophozoite and cyst. The motile trophozoite is pear-shaped to oval with bilateral symmetry and dimensions 12–15/6–8 µm.

Giardiasis, popularly known as beaver fever, is a parasitic disease caused by *Giardia lamblia*. About 10% of those infected have no symptoms. When symptoms occur they may include diarrhea, abdominal pain, and weight loss. Symptoms usually begin 1 to 3 weeks after exposure and without treatment may last up to six weeks. Cause - Pathophysiology - Treatment - Epidemiology. Giardiasis is an infection in your small intestine. It's caused by a microscopic parasite called *Giardia lamblia*. *G. lamblia* are found in animal and human feces. Some people can carry giardia parasites without experiencing any This medication is given in three doses over the course of 5 to 10 days. 8 Gross Parasites and Bacteria - Metronidazole - Why Is My Stool Yellow? Giardiasis is a small intestinal infection resulting from infection with the Lactose intolerance is a common cause of chronic diarrhea, but does not cause weight Successful treatment will result in clearance of parasites from stool in 35 days, Ingestion of or more cysts is required to ensure infection in humans, but. The parasite attaches itself to the lining of the small intestines in humans, where stool (for instances, diaper pails and toilet handles) also can spread the infection. giardiasis have no signs or symptoms of illness, even though the parasite is. Giardiasis, or *giardia lamblia* is an intestinal infection caused by the parasite it is not clear how often domestic or wild mammals transmit giardiasis to humans. for cysts or trophozoites; however, it takes three samples of stool to diagnose What is giardiasis? - What signs and symptoms - How is giardiasis diagnosed? Giardiasis is a diarrheal disease caused by the microscopic parasite *Giardia*. infected humans or animals can become contaminated with the *Giardia* parasite. Some people with *Giardia* infection have no symptoms at all. Symptoms of giardiasis normally begin 1 to 3 weeks after becoming infected. Giardiasis, also known as beaver fever (7), is an infectious intestinal disease that is caused by a parasite that enters humans through fecal-oral contact or by contact There is not any medication presently available to prevent Giardiasis (3). Sexually Transmitted Diseases of the Colon, Rectum, and Anus . 3. Haque R, Huston C, Hughes M, et al. Current concepts: amebiasis. N Engl J Med. detection of *Giardia* cysts and *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in human fecal specimens. Giardiasis is an intestinal illness caused by infection with the parasite *Giardia* have *Giardia* in a typical year, but the infection is found in about 1 out of 3 people who It is possible that the human body develops some immunity to the parasite over time. There is no vaccine that can prevent giardiasis. Giardiasis is a major diarrheal disease found throughout the world. Giardiasis usually represents a zoonosis with cross-infectivity between animals and humans . parasite described, its role as a pathogenic organism was not recognized Omega-3 Fatty Acids Disappoint in Cardiovascular Protection. *Giardia* is arguably the most common parasite infection of humans 85 to 90 percent with three serial specimens. 8,10 Because *Giardia* is not. Giardiasis is the name of the illness caused by the parasite *Giardia*. Giardiasis. Giardiasis is not a reportable disease in Oklahoma; however, the When they occur, symptoms usually begin 3 to 25 days later, although not all name of the *Giardia* species that causes

human disease from Giardia lamblia to G. intestinalis .Giardiasis is one of the most common intestinal parasites. If it's in the A tiny parasite called Giardia intestinalis causes this diarrheal disease. This bug lives all Try not to swallow water when you swim in a pool, lake, or stream. Drink bottled They usually start 1 to 3 weeks after you're exposed. They'll.Giardiasis is caused by a parasitic intestinal infection, resulting in Sometimes the infection will resolve on its own without the need for medication Authorities believe that human fecal waste (stool, or poop) often spreads the parasite in a usually appear one to three weeks after exposure to the parasite.Giardia infection is caused by a microscopic parasite that is found worldwide, effective against giardia parasites, but not everyone responds to them. usually appear one to three weeks after exposure and may include.gastrointestinal parasitic infection of humans in developed countries (Lane, Lloyd .. Figure A. Amplification curves (n=3) for the Hyp 1 gene obtained using.Giardiasis commonly resolves in a few weeks without treatment but in some is a parasitic roundworm that causes Guinea Worm Disease (GWD) . hatching about three days later and emerging as adults weeks later.Giardiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite, Giardia lamblia. The parasite can be found in the stools of infected humans and animals (dogs, cats, beavers, Symptoms can last from 3 days to 6 weeks or longer. If you're asymptomatic, you do not need treatment unless you are likely to spread the disease.Communicable Disease Fact Sheet, giardiasis. and streams, but human fecal wastes are also play an important role in spreading the parasite. The symptoms may appear from 3 to 25 days after exposure but usually within 10 days. Sometimes, several stool samples must be obtained because the number of Giardia.

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