

認識阿米巴性痢疾的問與答-英文版

About Amebiasis: Q&A

What is amebiasis?

Ans:

1. Amebiasis is the disease caused by the infection of *Entamoeba histolytica*, which is a parasite capable of invading the intestinal mucosa. In most conditions, it does not have any obvious symptoms.
2. Amebiasis mainly happens in areas with bad hygienic conditions, on patients suffering from psychiatric problems or mental retardation living in adoption agencies, people engaged in male-male sexual behaviors, people with weak immune systems, and people with a history of traveling or living in areas with epidemic outbreaks. These are the high-risk population groups.

What is the route of amebiasis infection?

Ans: Transmission occurs via the fecal-oral route, intimate contact among people, ingested food with fecal contamination, or raw food. Transmission may also occur via mouth-anus contact.

What are the frequently seen symptoms of amebiasis?

Ans: Slight, chronic, to severe diarrhea. There may be mucus or blood in the stool, intermittent diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, nausea, vomit, and other symptoms. The symptoms may last for 2-4 weeks. Some infected patients may suffer from extra-intestinal infection, such as liver abscess, lung abscess, or brain abscess.



How long is the incubation period of amebiasis?

Ans: The incubation period is 2 to 4 weeks on average, but it may be as long as years.

How can I prevent amebiasis?

Ans:

1. People with the above symptoms or who test positive should seek medical treatment as soon as possible. They should also pay extra attention to washing their hands before meals and after bowel movements.
2. Pay attention to the hygiene of the hand, food, and drink. Eat cooked food and drink boiled water. Discharge family wastewater properly.
3. Prevent food from being contaminated. Cover food and fruits with skins peeled with gauze food cover to avoid exposure to contamination by vectors (such as flies, roaches, etc.).
4. Avoid mouth-anus contact behaviors.

If migrant workers suffer from amebiasis, can they seek medical treatment in Taiwan?

Ans:

1. For migrant workers who fail a medical check-up because of amebiasis, they should cooperate with health agencies in an epidemiological investigation and seek treatment with self-funded medication within 65 days from the next day of receipt of the medical check-up reports. They should also take further tests within one month after completing the treatment (3 tests in 7 days; each test should be taken at least 24 hours apart). If all of the three tests conducted by the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control are negative, the tests will be regarded as passed.
2. Those who do not follow the procedures above are regarded as failing their medical health check. Local health departments will issue letters to refuse the filing for recordation and inform the Ministry of Labor (to suspend employment permit) and the National Immigration Agency, Ministry of the Interior (to note entry prohibited).

