

# June 2009 – Parasitic diseases

CPD questionnaires must be completed online via [www.cpdjournals.org.za](http://www.cpdjournals.org.za). After submission you can check the answers and print your certificate. Questions may be answered up to 6 months after publication of each issue.

## PARASITIC DISEASES IN THE RETURNING TRAVELLER

- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
PCR plays no significant role in the routine and rapid diagnosis of malaria.
- With regard to malaria – choose the incorrect answer:**
  - Plasmodium knowlesi* has become the most frequent cause of malaria outside Africa
  - Thrombocytopenia can be very pronounced in malaria patients
  - Unless complicated by other factors, malaria patients are not prone to bleed even with very low platelet counts
  - Fever as the lead symptom is often irregular in onset, particularly with *Plasmodium falciparum*
  - In malaria, white cell counts are usually normal.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Amoebic liver abscesses may evolve rapidly and constitute an emergency in *Entamoeba histolytica* infections.

## PARASITES AND THE SKIN

- True (A) or false (B) – fill only block A or B:**  
Tetmosol soap is safe in children and in pregnancy.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill only block A or B:**  
The most effective treatment for Norwegian scabies is oral ivermectin, which requires permission for use from the Medicines Control Council.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill only block A or B:**  
The presence of an ulcerating plaque in someone who has visited the Middle East recently should raise suspicion of leishmaniasis.

## COMMON PARASITIC INFECTIONS IN THE HIV-INFECTED PATIENT

- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
CD4 counts above 200 cells/ $\mu$ l virtually rule out cerebral toxoplasmosis.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
South Africans do not develop immunity to malaria because the infection is seasonal.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Southern Africa has seen an increase of at least 50% in the mortality from malaria as a result of HIV infection.

## SCHISTOSOMIASIS

- Which of the following is correct about the diagnosis of *Schistosoma haematobium* infection (choose one)?**
  - Optimal time of collection of urine is between 06h00 and 09h00
  - An antigen-specific immunoassay is routinely used for diagnosis
  - Eggs of *Schistosoma haematobium* are characterised by a lateral spine
  - A urine specimen should be sent to the laboratory on 3 consecutive days
  - The ELISA antibody detection test is a sensitive indicator of acute infection in those living in endemic areas.
- Which one of the following statements is correct concerning praziquantel therapy?**
  - Praziquantel is only active against adult worms

- Resistance against praziquantel is common and patients should always receive a repeat course of treatment 1 month later
  - HIV co-infection alters the efficacy of praziquantel
  - Patients with Katayama fever should receive a 1-week course of praziquantel
  - Artemether should be prescribed with praziquantel to treat all cases of *S. mansoni* in Africa.
- Which one of the following statements about chronic *S. mansoni* infection is incorrect?**
    - Extrahepatic signs of chronic liver disease are uncommon in patients with long-standing infection
    - Polyp development may lead to chronic dysentery and protein-losing enteropathy
    - Hepatic function is usually preserved
    - The majority of cases are symptomatic
    - Portocaval shunting enables eggs to reach ectopic sites.

## TAENIA AND ECHINOCOCCUS INFECTIONS IN HUMANS

- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Hydatid disease in HIV-infected patients commonly presents as neurocysticercosis with cystic lesions in the liver and lungs.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
The diagnosis of *Taenia* species can be identified only by examination of the segments, because the eggs are identical.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Eosinophils in the cerebrospinal fluid may be suggestive of infection with *Taenia solium*.

## NEMATODES

- With *Strongyloides stercoralis* infection (choose the correct answer):**
  - The tissue nematode infection produces microfilariae
  - Cure results from a single dose of albendazole
  - Severe disseminated disease can occur in patients on corticosteroids
  - Rhabditiform larvae are diagnostic in stool
  - Adult worms mature in the small bowel after infective egg ingestion.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Eosinophilia is a common finding in patients infected with intestinal nematodes that have a migratory larval stage.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Several roundworm diseases are part of the 14 neglected tropical diseases currently being targeted by the WHO.

## AMOEBIASIS

- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Serum tests for antibodies directed against *E. histolytica* antigens may remain positive for years.
- True (A) or false (B) – fill in only block A or B:**  
Oral metronidazole is the drug of choice for all forms of amoebiasis in South Africa.

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