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## Role of homoeopathic treatment in worm infestations

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### Abstract

Worm infection is a very prominent infection affecting children in almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  the world's population. Mainly affecting agents are soil-transmitted Helminth *Ascaris lumbricoides*, hookworm (*Ancylostoma duodenal* and *Necator americanus*), *Trichuris trichiura*, and *Strongyloides stercoralis*. All over the world the treatment and deworming procedure has been accepted to concur this but this is not as effective as it has been expected. Still, these procedures have been reduced the severe complication of this infection.

Soil-transmitted infection is mainly due to unhealthy environments, unhygienic conditions like no hand wash before the meal, people living around the marshy area, field workers, children playing in the soil, and other things would be like less education regarding soil-transmitted diseases, hygiene, and sanitation. Most of the middle-income country or poor country has no access to proper food, and sanitation so these countries are more prone to such infected condition. Previously WHO estimated that 875 million children needed regular STH treatment belonging to poor and middle-income countries.

**Keywords:** Soil-transmitted diseases, Ascariasis, Helminth, worm infestation, sanitation, hygiene, homoeopathic treatment

**Abbreviation:** STH, WHO, CT, X-RAY, MRI

### Introduction

STH infection is mainly due to unhealthy environments, unhygienic conditions like no hand wash before meals, people living around the marshy area, in fields workers, children playing in soil, and other things would be like less education regarding soil-transmitted diseases, hygiene, and sanitation. Most of the middle-income country or poor country has no access to proper food, or sanitation so these countries are more prone to such infected condition<sup>[5]</sup>.

### Prevalence

The prevalence rate of the soil-transmitted diseases are almost 26.3% (40/152). More common in this infection are Ascariasis lumbricoids which is almost 90%.

People mainly working in the agriculture field or living in such areas along with eating unhealthy food like junk food infected water and food, open defecation are the major causes<sup>[3, 5]</sup>.

### Objective

To access the effectiveness of homeopathic medicine in cases of worm infestation and to ensure the proper health care in this situation.

### Pathophysiology

Various factors is playing role in spreading soil transmitted infection in which most common agent is *Ascaris lumbricoides*. It affects almost 90% of the cases of soil transmitted diseases. Other factors or agents are *Giardia lamblia*, *Teanea*, *Trichuris trichiura*, *Necator americanus*, and *Anchylostoma deodenale*.

After infection development and reproduction of parasite occur in the host's organ and tissues. Survival of parasite eggs occur mainly in the warm and moist climate of tropical and subtropical areas<sup>[6]</sup>.

### Causes

Causes mainly included the unhygienic and unhealthy living, which includes the work in soil, no hand wash habit, infected food and drinking habit, junk food eating, improper sanitation, open defecation in some portion of world.

Uneducated population who have not proper knowledge regarding the soil transmitted infection are also responsible for spreading the infection as they unknowingly transmitted these infection to their community and population by the infected hand, infected soil, infected vegetables infected food and water.

These conditions are mainly occurs in low income or middle incomes countries but it also has been seen in high income but unhealthy and junk eating population too.

Causes are determined by the infectious agent to these unhygienic condition are numerous parasites like Ascaris, nematodes, hook worm, liver worms etc.

### Types

Several types of worm infections are which can causes serious health issues are following;

Thread worm, Round worm (*Ascaris lumbricoids*), Tape worm (*Taenia Solium*), Whip worm, Hook worm (liver fluke) etc.

### Symptoms

Mostly infection of worm provided no symptoms in first instances. In some people who have very weak immune system may develops the gastrointestinal symptoms like Diarrhoea, dysentery, vomiting etc. Occasionally some serious effect of hook worm infection may occur as the development of Anaemia and protein deficiency. These conditions is due to blood loss occurs at the site of intestinal attachment of the adult worms<sup>[4]</sup>.

When children are continuously infected by numerous worms.

There is loss of iron and protein in body which stop or defects the physical and mental growth of the child<sup>[7]</sup>.

### Other gastrointestinal symptoms may include

- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite or ravenous hunger
- Weight loss, etc.

Other complications – Vitamins and minerals deficiencies.

### Diagnosis

Diagnosis of Ascariasis or other infecting agent may includes following<sup>[8, 9, 10]</sup>.

**Blood Test:** in parasitic infection like Ascariasis increased number of eosinophills may detected on blood.

**Stool Test:** infection of worm mainly occur through intestine so when female worm infected the hatch its egg in intestine which travel through and lodge on rectum ad passes through stool, but in case of male worm infection egg will not found in stool.

X-RAY, MRI, and CT scan could be done to find out the infection of abdominal organs, as it primarily affects these organs.

### Homoeopathic Medicines<sup>[11]</sup>:

**Abrotanum:** Ascarides. Gnawing hunger and whining, stomach pain.

**Chenopodium:** Oil of Chenopodium for round worms and hookworms

**Cina:** Digging and scratching in the ear. Itching of the nose all time. Get hungry soon after a meal. Twisting colic about navel. Itching of anus. Worm infestation mainly pin worm.

**Calcarea Carb:** Crawling and constriction feeling in the rectum with white pasty stool. Children are late in learning and walking.

**Natrum Muriaticum:** Children are slow in learning and walking. Pain and burning after stool.

**Medorrhinum:** Children are dwarfed and stunned. Weak memory. Intense itching of anus. Nocturnal enuresis

**Santonine:** Effective for roundworm and pin worm. it was used when Cina failed. There is itching in the nose restless sleep and twitching of muscle.

**Sinapis:** Remedy for pinworm. It may be tried when the teucrium failed.

**Spigellia:** Severe abdominal pain, colicky, cramping pain around the umbilicus. convulsion from worms. Jerking and paleness of face with a blue ring around the eye.

**Sabadilla:** Ascarides with reflex symptoms. Diarrhoea in children with constant cutting pain.

**Sulphur:** Complete loss of appetite or ravenous appetite. Children are afraid on account of pain. Redness and itching around the anus. Enuresis occurs especially in scrofulous and untidy children.

**Teucrium Mar:** It is used in round and pinworm infections. Tingling and tickling in nose. Itching around the anus and vagina occurs.

These are some specific medicines which deal with worm infestation. These medicines could be given on the basis of individualisation as per the case required.

### Method

Various literature and journals regarding Ascariasis and other soil-transmitted infection and treatment regarding the infection and role of homeopathic treatment in this condition.

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