

### SUMMARY

The parasitic diseases are considered a world health problem, particularly in the tropical, subtropical, and underdeveloped areas, where, warm, humid climate, poverty, lack of hygien, and inadequate sanitary facilities create a favorable conditions for infestations.

A parasite is conveniently defined as an organism which depends upon living host for one or more its essential metabolic requirement.

The principal groups of internal parasites which affect man and cause diseases with cutaneous manifestations are the protozoa and helminthes which include the classes Nematoda (roundworms), Trematoda (flukes), and cestoda ( tapeworms ).

The protozoa of dermatologic interest include :  
Entamoeba histolytica which may occasionally invade the skin causing deep ulcers particularly on the abdominal wall, buttocks, and perianal area, Trypanosoma which cause chagas' disease which is manifested by formation of "chagoma" at the site of biting of the insect vector, and African sleeping sickness which is characterized by formation of "chancre" at the site of biting of the tsetse fly.

Other protozoa are the species of *Leishmania*, some responsible for increasing pigmentation of the skin mostly on the forehead and around the mouth, and others for formation of nodule with ulceration at the site of the insect bite with latter scarring.

The class Nematoda include : *Enterobius vermicularis* which cause nocturnal intense, perianal and perineal pruritus, *Ancylostoma duodenal* and *Necator Americanus* which are characterized by formation of local dermatitis (ground itch), which develops at the point of larvae penetration, *Strongyloides stercoralis* which cause a type of creeping eruption called "larvae curren" and *Wuchereria bancrofti* which lives in the lymphatic vessesles causing chronic oedema and marked massive permanent enlargement of the affected part.

The class Trematoda include *Schistosoma* species in which the cutaneous manifestations consists of, schistosomal dermatitis, urticarial reaction and granulomata ( genital and extragenital ).

The class cestoda or tapeworms which may affect human skin include *Taenia solium* which cause a condition known as cysticercosis which characterized by formation of rounded and sharply demarcated nodules, usually on the

trunk or extremities.

On the other hand there are several another protozoa and helminthic parasites which affect human host and lead to skin manifestations such as: *Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Dracunculus medinensis*, *Toxocara canis*, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Echinococcus granulosus*, *Loa loa*, *Dipetalonema perstans*, *Spirometra* species, *Multiceps* species, and *Gnathostoma spinigerum*.