



Pinworms (Enterobiasis)

What are Pinworms?

This is a common intestinal infection caused by a tiny worm, which lives in the human large intestine. The signs and symptoms, mode of transmission and incubation period are as follows:

Signs and Symptoms

There may be anal itching which can be severe. Other symptoms include irritability, nervousness, restlessness and difficulty sleeping during the night. The child may also have a secondary infection from scratching the skin.

Mode of Transmission

Direct transfer of eggs from the stool of one infected person to another spreads pinworms when contaminated hands, food or objects are placed in the mouth. The eggs can also be transferred from one person to another indirectly through clothing, bedding or other articles contaminated with parasite eggs.

Incubation period (the time between exposure to the disease and the appearance of symptoms)
One to 2 months or longer.

Treatment

An oral medication is given to the affected individual and family members with close contact.

General preventative measures:

Teach the importance of proper handwashing after using the toilet and before eating or preparing foods. Do not share common food bowls with other people, i.e: popcorn, chips, etc. Discourage nail biting and keep nails trimmed and short.

Should your child present any of these symptoms, we recommend that you consult your family healthcare provider. A child with a pinworm infestation should be excluded from school until treatment is completed.

If you would like further information it can be found at the links below:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/pinworm>

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/pinworm/gen_info/faqs.html

If you have any questions, please feel free to call your child's school.