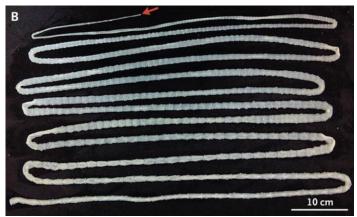


Newsletter of Science Society
November, 2017

二零一七年十一月號

What are Tapeworms?

Tapeworms are a kind of *parasites(寄生物) (More about parasites later)



They are flat, segmented worms which **live inside the small intestine** of humans and feed on the digested food to obtain nutrition.

Tapeworms are **made up of segments**, and they get longer by growing new segments. Each segment can **reproduce by making thousands of eggs**. Since tapeworms can have more than 3,000 segments, that's a lot of opportunity to spread.

Causes of Tapeworm infection

Drinking contaminated water and **eating undercooked meat from infected animals** are the main causes of tapeworm infection in human.

Once inside the body, the tapeworm head attaches to the inner wall of the intestines. The tapeworm feeds off the food that the host is digesting. It uses this nutrition to grow.

In human beings, tapeworm infection is most commonly caused by the:

- pork tapeworm (Taenia solium)
- **beef** tapeworm (*Taenia saginata*)
- **dwarf** (侏儒) tapeworm (*Hymenolepis nana*)

fish tapeworm from raw freshwater fish (Diphyllobothrium latum)

Symptoms of having a tapeworm

Sometimes tapeworms cause symptoms such as:

- Nausea
- Weakness
- Diarrhea
- · Abdominal pain
- Hunger or loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Weight loss
- Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

How to reduce the risk of tapeworms?

- Avoid raw fish and meat
- Wash your hands before and after using the toilet
- Thoroughly cook meat to temperatures of at least 145 degrees Fahrenheit for whole cuts of meat and to at least 160 degree Fahrenheit for ground meat and poultry. Then, allow the meat to rest for three minutes before carving or consuming; the heat continues killing pathogens during that time.
- Freezing meat to -4 degrees F for at least 24 hours also kills tapeworm eggs.
- When traveling in undeveloped countries, cook fruits and vegetables with boiled or chemically-treated water before eating.
- Wash hands with soap and hot water before preparing or eating foods.

Although <u>most</u> tapeworm infections are harmless, it's always a good idea to **get checked out** by a doctor if you have symptoms.

More about parasites

A parasite is an organism that lives on or in a host and gets its food from or at the expense of its host. Parasites **can cause disease in humans**. Some parasitic diseases are easily treated and some are not.

system. An anterior holdfast organ (the scolex) is followed by a germinative portion ("neck") and segments at successively later stages of development. Larvae encyst in various tissues of the intermediate host; larval cysts contain one or many scoleces of future adult worms.

Other examples of parasites:



Lice 蝨子

Bedburgs 臭蟲

Scabies 疥

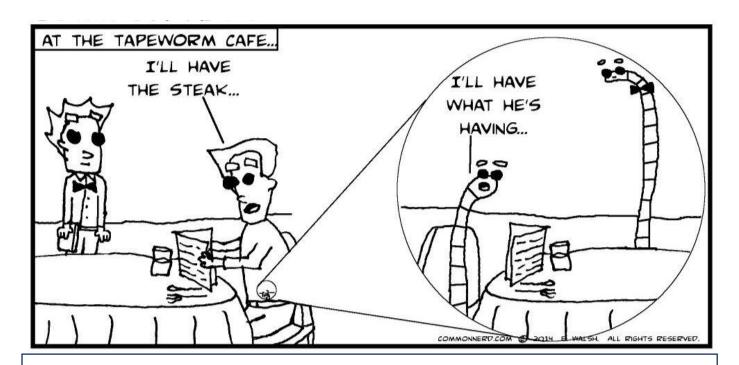
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Comic Corner



Science Society 2017-2018

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