

Parasitic Diseases

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1. Introduction

- Parasitic diseases are illnesses caused by protozoa, helminths, or ectoparasites.
- They are a major public health burden, especially in tropical regions.

2. Protozoal Diseases

- **Malaria:** caused by Plasmodium and spread by Anopheles mosquitoes; presents with fever and chills.
- **Amoebiasis:** caused by Entamoeba histolytica, leading to dysentery.
- **Giardiasis:** a common cause of diarrhoea from contaminated water.

3. Helminthic Diseases

- **Soil-transmitted helminths:** roundworm, hookworm, and whipworm cause anaemia and malnutrition.
- **Schistosomiasis:** caused by blood flukes linked to freshwater snails.

4. Clinical Features and Diagnosis

- Symptoms range from diarrhoea and anaemia to fever and organ damage.
- Diagnosis relies on microscopy of stool, blood, or other specimens.

5. Treatment Principles

- Specific antiparasitic drugs are used, such as antimalarials and anthelmintics.
- Supportive care addresses dehydration and anaemia.

6. Summary

- Parasitic diseases caused by protozoa and helminths produce varied symptoms diagnosed mainly by microscopy and treated with specific antiparasitic drugs.