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### **Editorial Note on Cysticercoids**

#### Gerhard H. Fromm\*

Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

### **Editorial**

Cysticercoids are a parasitic tissue contamination resulting from the larval cysts of the tapeworm Taeniasolium. Cysts from these larvae infect the brain, muscles, or other tissues and are the leading cause of seizures in adults in most low-income countries. A person becomes cysticercosis by swallowing an egg found in the stool of a person who has tapeworms of the intestines. People who live in the same household as those who have tapeworms are at a much higher risk of developing cysticercosis than those who do not have tapeworms. Eating poorly cooked pork does not cause cysticercosis. If pork contains larval cysts, ingesting undercooked pork can lead to tapeworms in the intestines. Pigs are infected by eating tapeworm eggs in the feces of humans infected with tapeworms.

Cysticercoids are an infectious disease caused by the parasite tapeworm larvae. The larvae enter tissues such as the muscles and brain, where they form cysts (called cysticers). If a cyst is found in the brain, it is called neurocysticercosis. Swallowing the eggs of Pork tapeworm that pass through the feces of a person with tapeworms causes cysticercosis. Tapeworm eggs spread on surfaces contaminated with food, water, or feces. When people eat contaminated food or put their contaminated fingers in their mouths, they swallow eggs. Importantly, a person with a tapeworm can infect himself with the tapeworm egg (this is called self-infection) and infect others in the family. Eating pork does not cause cysticercosis.

You get a tapeworm infection after eating raw or undercooked pork contaminated with solium cysts. When swallowed, the cyst passes through the stomach and attaches to the inner wall of the small intestine. In the small intestine, cysts grow into adult tapeworms within about two months.

# Signs and symptoms depend on the location and number of cysts in the body

- Muscle cyst: Muscle cysts generally do not cause any symptoms.
  However, you may feel a lump under the skin. The lump may become soft.
- Eye cyst: In rare cases, cysts may float in the eyes, causing blurred or disturbed vision. Eye infections can cause swelling and detachment of the retina.

- Neurocysticercosis (cysts of the brain and spinal cord): The symptoms of neurocysticercosis depend on where and how many cysts are found in the brain. However, confusion, lack of awareness of people and the environment, balance problems, and excess water around the brain (so-called hydrocephalus) can also occur. Illness can lead to death.
- Cystics: Called cysticers, can occur in the muscles, eyes, brain, and/ or spinal cord [1-5].

## The symptoms caused by the cyst depend on the location, size, number, and stage of the cyst

Brain or spinal cord cyst: Causes the most severe illness known as neurocysticercosis can't cause symptoms can cause balance problems, swelling of the brain, and excess water around the brain (these are less common). May cause stroke or death muscle cyst: generally does not causes symptoms causes lumps under the skin, sometimes softening.

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\*Address for Correspondence: Gerhard H. Fromm, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, E-mail: Gerhardhf@hotmail.com

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