

Lymphatic Filariasis Characteristics and Life Cycle



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Characteristics

Elephantiasis

[Elephant](#)

Lymphatic filariasis is also well known as elephantiasis. It is a condition in which the limbs and skin thicken, causing the affected area to appear large.

Nematode (Roundworm)

[Knee-toad with Roundworms](#)

Lymphatic filariasis is caused by roundworm parasites from the family Filarioidea. The nematodes can enter the body through female mosquito bites and cause elephantiasis are *Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi*.

Etiology

Brugia malayi

[Brew-chia Malaysia](#)

Brugia malayi is a nematode that causes lymphatic filariasis.

Wuchereria bancrofti

[Witch Bankruptcy](#)

Wuchereria bancrofti is responsible for around 90% of lymphatic filariasis cases.

Transmission

Female Mosquito

[Female-symbol Mosquito](#)

Lymphatic filariasis is transmitted by female mosquitoes.

Life Cycle

Microfilariae Infect Mosquito

[Small-filer Infect Mosquito](#)

Microfilariae are ingested by mosquito during a blood meal. To contract lymphatic filariasis, an individual generally needs to be bitten by an infected mosquito, which introduces microfilariae into the bloodstream.

Mature into Larvae

[Worm](#)

The microfilariae develop into larvae that can infect a host when a mosquito carrying them bites a human.

Larvae Deposited on the Skin

[Worm Inside the Skin](#)

Larvae are deposited on the host's skin after the infected mosquito bites the host.

Larvae Migrate to the Lymphatic Vessels

[Worm Migrate to Lymph-limes](#)

Larvae migrate to the lymphatic vessels and then transform into adult worms.

Invade Lymph Nodes

[Invading Lime-Nose](#)

Adult worms invade the lymph nodes and inhabit the lymphatic vessels and afferent lymphatics of the lymph nodes.

9 Months to 1 Year Incubation Period

[Incubator \(9\) Lives-cat \(1\) Wand](#)

The incubation period of filariasis is around 9 months to 1 year. The adult filariasis worm can survive around 5-8 years, although sometimes, it can survive 15 years or more. People residing in tropical/sub-tropical areas with a high prevalence of lymphatic filariasis have a high risk of infection, while short-term tourists have a low risk.