

AMOEBIASIS

ANIMAL GROUP AFFECTED	TRANSMISSION	CLINICAL SIGNS	FATAL DISEASE ?	TREATMENT	PREVENTION & CONTROL
All nonhuman primate genera	Perorally	Bloody-mucoid diarrhoea, vomitus, weakness, general malaise, crouched posture, anorexia, weight loss.	In great apes, Hylobatidae, New World monkeys and Colobinae yes	Imidazole-derivatives	<i>In houses</i> Good hygienic practices, vaccination <i>in zoos</i> good hygienic practices, vaccination

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Susceptible animal groups All nonhuman primate genera. Rarely disease in Cercopithecidae, but severe disease in the great apes, Hylobatidae, Colobinae and New World monkeys.	
Causative organism <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> , „magna“ and „minuta“ races, 11 cytodesmes.	
Zoonotic potential Yes.	
Distribution World –wide, especially in tropical and subtropical regions.	
Transmission Perorally , only mature cysts are infective.	
Incubation period A few days up to many months.	
Clinical symptoms Most infections are asymptomatic, especially those in Cercopithecidae. Clinical disease is observed particularly in the great apes, Hylobatidae and New World monkeys as apathy, muscular weakness, haemorrhagic-mucoid diarrhea, vomitus , and general malaise. In the Colobinae gastric-hepatic amoebiasis appears as suddenly increased respiratory rates and crouched posture, diarrhoea, anorexia and weight loss.	
Post mortem findings In the great apes, Hylobatidae and New World monkeys caeco-colic necrotic areas sometimes with sunken centers, chronic colitis, in chimpanzees also pulmonary abscesses observed. In Colobinae ulcerative gastritis of praesaccus and saccus, frequently hepatic abscesses.	
Diagnosis Faecal smears, immunofluorescence, indirect haemagglutination, CF-tests, enzyme-immunotests, DNA-hybridization,RIA's. Latex – agglutination, gel – precipitation.	
Material required for laboratory analysis Faeces, gastric or large intestinal tissues, serum	
Relevant diagnostic laboratories 1. Local medical or veterinary laboratories. 2. Nationales Referenzzentrum für tropische Infektionserreger am Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 74 D 20359 HAMBURG, Germany Tel.: 040 42818 401 Fax: “ “ 400	



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Treatment

Imidazole- derivatives (Metronidazole etc.).

Prevention and control in zoos

Good hygienic practices, eventually vaccination with serine-rich *E.histolytica* protein-vaccine.

Suggested disinfectant for housing facilities**Notification****Guarantees required under EU Legislation****Guarantees required by EAZA Zoos****Measures required under the Animal Disease Surveillance Plan****Measures required for introducing animals from non-approved sources****Measures to be taken in case of disease outbreak or positive laboratory findings****Conditions for restoring disease-free status after an outbreak****Experts who may be consulted**

1. Prof. Dr. B. Fleischer, NRZ, Hamburg,
2. Prof. Dr. H. Schmitz, “ “

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