

A Filariasis-Free Me

A Campaign on the Prevention and Control
of Filariasis for Health Promoting Schools



Urbani
School Health Kit



**World Health
Organization**
Western Pacific Region

Urbani School Health Kit
TEACHER'S RESOURCE BOOK

A Filariasis-Free Me

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of Filariasis for Health Promoting Schools



Key Issue

Preventing and controlling filariasis.

Objectives

After the lessons, schoolchildren **ages 5 to 9** will be able to:

- Identify the mosquito as a harmful insect
- Name ways of protecting oneself from getting bitten by mosquitoes
- Describe a person who gets filariasis
- List ways of stopping spread of filariasis

After the lessons, schoolchildren **ages 10 to 12** will be able to:

- Discuss the factors in the development of filariasis
- Describe the transmission of filariasis
- Explain the lifecycle of the filarial worm
- Describe the signs and symptoms of filariasis
- Explain what should be done when a person has signs and symptoms of filariasis
- Discuss the ways of preventing the spread of filariasis

Key Messages

For ages 5 to 9

- The mosquito is a potentially harmful insect since it may carry the organisms that cause filariasis.
- Children should protect self from mosquito bites by wearing protective clothing, sleeping under mosquito nets and avoiding mosquito-breeding sites.

In addition, **for ages 10 to 12**

- Preventing filariasis starts with an understanding of the factors that influence its transmission such as presence of filarial worms in an infected person and mosquitoes, poor nutrition and environmental sanitation.
- Persons who are exposed in filariasis-endemic areas should get early diagnosis and prompt treatment.
- People who live in filariasis endemic areas should participate in mass drug administration to stop the transmission of the disease.

What should children **know** about filariasis?



What is filariasis?

Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as Elephantiasis, is a disease caused by a parasite or worms (microfilariae) that weakens and disfigures a person – like an enlargement of the entire leg or arm, breasts, and the genitals. This happens by attacking the lymph nodes and lymph vessels that maintain the delicate fluid balance between the tissues and blood and an important component for the body's immune system.

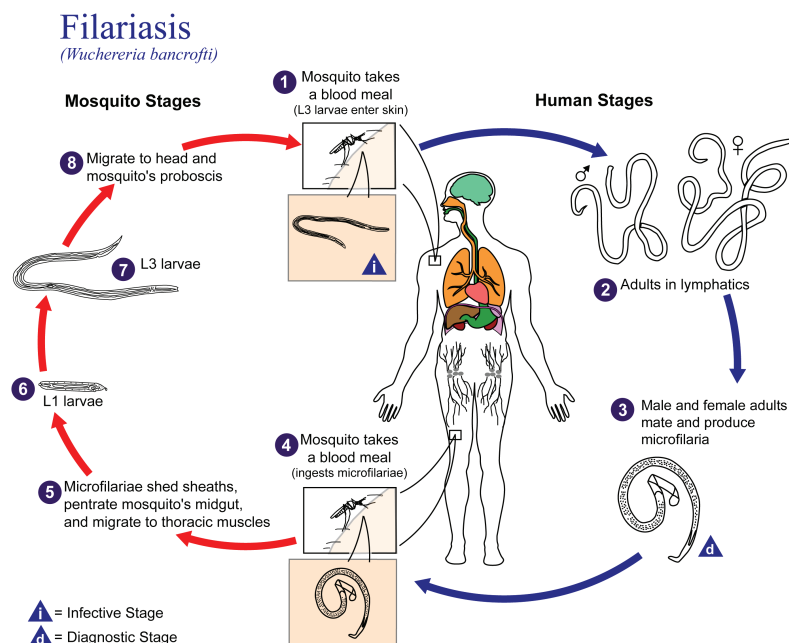
The thread-like worms, which can be between 4-12 cm long, live in the body's lymph nodes and lymph vessels for 4-6 years. These worms can be transferred from an infected person to another (well person) by a mosquito bite.

The filarial worm has three distinct stages of development inside the mosquito & inside the human or person, namely, (1) microfilaria; (2) larva and (3) adult worm.

Microfilaria: The microfilaria from an infected person is ingested by a mosquito during blood meal and develop into larva 1 or first stage larve after 2 days.

Larva: Larva 1 develops into Larva 2 upto the infective stage Larva 3 for about 3 weeks which migrates to the proboscis or mouth parts of the mosquito and transferred to an uninfected person during subsequent bites which later develops to Larva 4.

Adult Worm: The Larva 4 develops to adult male or female filarial worms inside the lymph vessels of a human. These adult worms mate and give rise to microfilaria which circulates in the bloodstream and the cycle continues when another mosquito vector gets it during blood feeding and the cycle may be repeated.



What are the signs and symptoms of filariasis?

Among the people living in endemic areas, the development of the disease may take a long time. Overt signs and symptoms is usually observed during adulthood even though the infection may have been acquired in childhood.

Physical symptoms: At the early stage - leg pains, fever, painful & tender lymph nodes, skin lesions. After several years of infection - enlargement of arms, legs, breasts, vulva, scrotum or penis

Psychosocial symptoms: Personal shame; lost/diminished economic productivity; becoming a burden to the family and community; social loss (lost or broken marriages, lost parenthood opportunities)



How can we prevent the spread of filariasis?



Protect people from the spread of the infection.

Stop the spread of the infection through participation in “mass treatment” programmes in infected communities. Treatment programme involves taking a few anti-filariasis drugs once a year for a minimum of 5 years to eliminate lymphatic filariasis.

Keep away from the breeding sites of mosquitoes carrying filariae.

Keep away from the breeding sites of mosquitoes carrying filariae— usually the leaves of pandanus, banana, pakil, taro (gabi), abaca and any axilled plants.

Persons who live in or travel to areas where filariasis occurs should:

Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by protecting self with mosquito repellants and wearing protective clothing and/or sleeping under mosquito nets.

Go for early diagnosis and treatment if suspected of infection.

Detect and treat the disease early.

If a person is suspected of infection, send a blood sample for examination.

If found positive for filariasis, make sure the person is given appropriate

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_25605

