

Dr. Surin Vasdev, MD
Corvallis Gastroenterology
3517 NW Samaritan Drive, #101
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-753-2205
February 26, 2006

Representative Sara Gelser
900 Court St. NE H-479,
Salem, OR, 97301

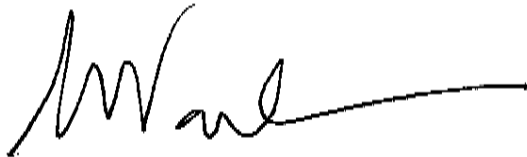
Dear Representative Gelser:

I am familiar with *Blastocystis* infection through my practice. I have found that it can cause gastrointestinal illness in patients, and can be difficult to treat.

I'd like to express my support for HB 2699, which will make *Blastocystis* a reportable infection. It is my hope that this bill will help public health authorities track and prevent infections.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Surin Vasdev', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Surin Vasdev, MD

Dr. Eunju R. Metzler, MD
The Corvallis Clinic
3680 NW Samaritan Dr
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 754-1278
February 28, 2006

Representative Sara Gelser
900 Court St. NE H-479,
Salem, OR, 97301

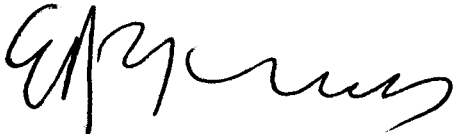
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Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Metzler', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Eunju R. Metzler, MD

Dr. Beth Laurenson, ND
Samaritan Health Services
3509 NW Samaritan Drive
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-768-6412
February 26, 2006

Representative Sara Gelser
900 Court St. NE H-479,
Salem, OR, 97301

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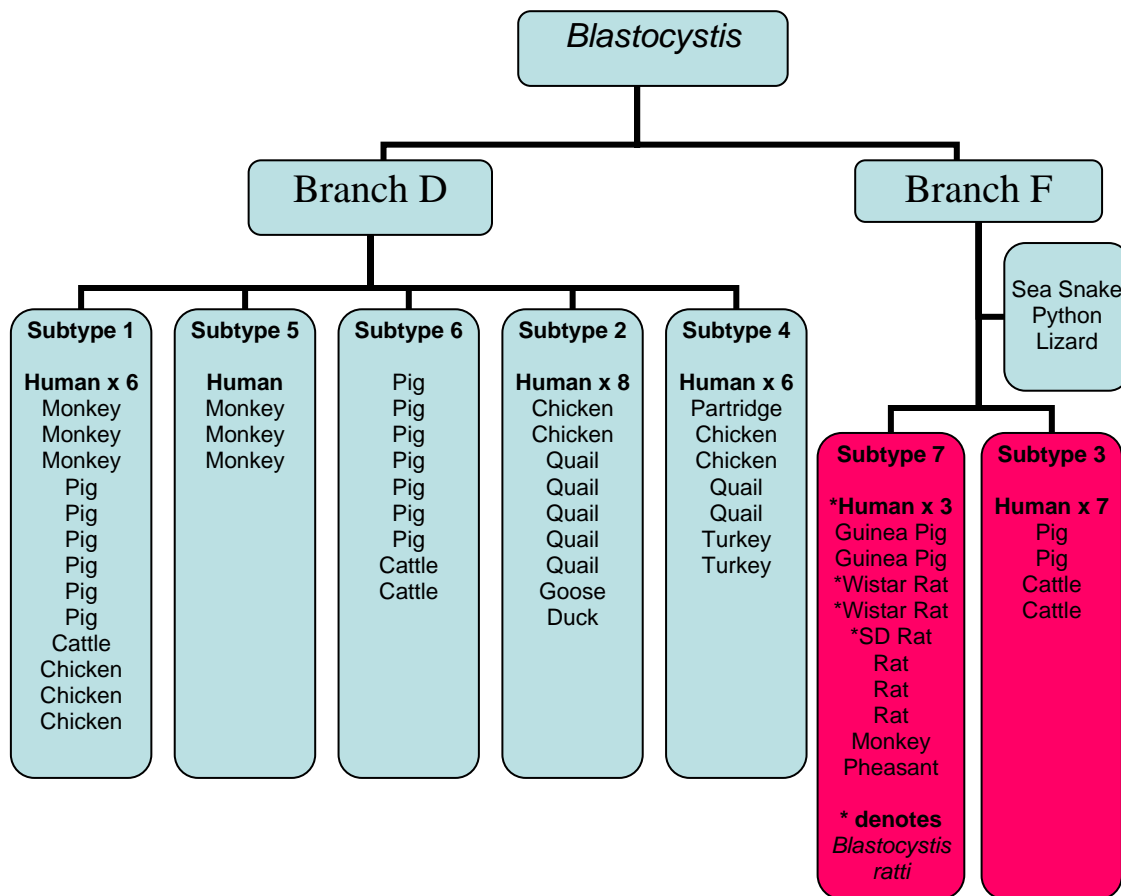
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Dr. Beth Laurenson, ND



Categorization of *Blastocystis* isolates based on Figure 1 from Noel C, et al. *Molecular phylogenies of Blastocystis isolates from different hosts: implications for genetic diversity, identification of species, and zoonosis*. J Clin Microbiol. 2005 Jan;43(1):348-55. PMID: 15634993. Branch D corresponds primarily to primates and domesticated animals, Branch F corresponds primarily to feral animals (this author's naming).

Subtypes 3 and 7 have been implicated in pathogenicity in the following studies:

Subtype 7: Puthia MK, Sio SW, Lu J, Tan KS. *Blastocystis ratti* induces contact-independent apoptosis, F-actin rearrangement, and barrier function disruption in IEC-6 cells. Infect Immun. 2006 Jul;74(7):4114-23. PMID: 16790785

Subtype 3: Tan TC, Suresh KG, Thong KL, Smith HV. *PCR fingerprinting of Blastocystis isolated from symptomatic and asymptomatic human hosts*. Parasitol Res. 2006 Sep;99(4):459-65. PMID: 16628457

Subtypes 3 and 7: Stensvold R, Brillowska-Dabrowska A, Nielsen HV, Arendrup MC. Detection of *Blastocystis hominis* in unpreserved stool specimens by using polymerase chain reaction. J Parasitol. 2006 Oct;92(5):1081-7. PMID: 17152954

Tan TC, Suresh KG. Predominance of amoeboid forms of *Blastocystis hominis* in isolates from symptomatic patients. Parasitol Res. 2006 Feb;98(3):189-93. PMID: 16323025

The *Blastocystis* Research Foundation can supply copies of any of these articles to interested researchers or public officials on request. Contact Ken Boorom, bhom2@comcast.net, <http://www.bhomcenter.org>

Figure © 2007 Elsevier.

From: Theresa Hogue, Corvallis Gazette-Times
To: Blastocystis Research Foundation
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 1:34 PM
Subject: Follow up to article

Ken,

As a follow up to the article I wrote regarding *Blastocystis*, here are some comments posted to our Web version of the article on our site. Feel free to add them to the research/documentation you are collecting for the research project. If I receive further emails or additional comments, I will send them along.

Mark Kossow wrote on January 16, 2007 7:44 AM: "Our daughter had all these symptoms and problems and I never heard of *Blastocystis*. **They gave her several antibiotic treatments that didn't work. She lost 10% of her bodyweight. It was a long, scary battle so any research is important.** "

George Marton Jr wrote on February 02, 2007 1:47 PM: "I live in **Jefferson Oregon, about 22 miles from Corvallis** and I and a neighbor of mine are having the same exact symptoms for about 3 months now, again with courses of antibiotics that seem to be working, then it comes back again and again. Upper and lower GI's reveal nothing but I have yet to get a stool sample that might reveal the real culprit. Thanks for the eye opening article, I'll alert my doctor... thanks again."

Thanks Ken!

Theresa Hogue
Features Reporter

"When I moved my practice from California to Oregon, **I never saw so much inflammatory bowel disease in my life.** We did a controlled study with the Corvallis clinic using Giardia as a control. They have a stain that makes white blood cells light up....**We found 1 in 4 people with Blastocystis infection had IBD versus something like 1 in 30 for Giardia.**.....We see a lot of hikers, outdoorsy people. A lot of people on well water. Everyone in Oregon is on well water....the infections come in waves during the winter when the flooding starts."

Dr. Terrance Hill, Board Certified Gastroenterologist
March 2006

From: xxxxx [mailto:xxxxxx@peak.org]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2007 3:02 PM
To: bhom2@comcast.net
Subject: Albany resident diagnosed today

Hi. I'm a resident of Albany who got results today indicating a blastocystis hominis infection, and used Auntie Google to find you.....I've had Flagyl prescribed and plan to take it beginning Tuesday morning (3/6), so I don't know that a fecal sample would be useful after tomorrow.

I was violently ill 18 days ago; three days of "don't go anywhere but the couch" diarrhea, fatigue. Fever that broke the first night; I may have had the flu at the same time. Sense of lower gut being coated with hot peppers. **Lost about four pounds.** Had a recurrence of the diarrhea and fatigue last week (H and again Sn) and decided to get tested. Still have the itchiness and some fatigue; everything else has cleared up.

I am curious because I have a cat who, if she were human, would be a nigh-classic case of irritable bowel syndrome, which Auntie Google tells me some researchers link to BH. I've always thought she had a food allergy. I've a call in to my vet to see if she can be tested as well. However, I have had her for years and never had a problem (myself) like THIS before.

-----Original Message-----

From: s- xxxxx [mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2006 2:20 PM
To: bhom2@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Blasto H

We just got back from a trip. My **illness began with loosing 20 lbs in ten days** then over the next 16 months ten more, against my will.....

Then the symptoms just got longer and longer including, gut hurt so bad at night I couldn't sleep and would go walking for two to three hours trying to escape the pain, then collapsing exhausted in the bed till noon, couldn't get up for breakfast.....

So anyways, I am much improved now but lost a year and a half of my life, is there a group here in Eugene that discusses this stuff?

later

d

From: xxxxxx [mailto:xxxxxxxxx@comcast]
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2007 7:59 PM
To: bhom2@comcast.net
Subject: Your Corvallis Gazette article

Hi Ken -- My sister from Albany forwarded to me a copy of your story by Theresa Houge in the Gazette-Times.

Just so you know, that we're a family that understands what it's like to live with blastocystis. My husband got sick in 1989 after eating sushi from a Seattle restaurant. He's been treated by countless doctors from all over our region and even at a clinic in Reno. He FINALLY got rid of the parasite in Dec of 05 after being treated by a Naturopath who gave him a lengthy regime of specific antibiotics. **He's still very thin and "has his days", but he's so much better than he was in 1990**, and better than he was in 1999 and better yet than how he was in 2004. **We've spent so much \$\$ trying to find a cure that we could have funded you research foundation twice over and therefore have nothing to donate to your cause.**

Good Luck to you; I am glad that you are there for others --we spent many years feeling very lonely with everyone looking at us wondering what was wrong with him -- it was hard not to begin to think that it was all in his head; perhaps your foundation will help others to not feel so alone in all of this. -- My heart aches for the parents of the young boy mentioned in the article too, I know that he has a long journey to good health. God Bless --- Alexa

Verbal Patient Interviews (names changed per request of subjects)

“We were doing an archaeological dig. I got non-stop diarrhea, along with the woman who was working with me. **I kept losing weight.....** After a few months, both of us were so sick we had to quit.....I told myself I’d check **into a hospital when my weight got too low**, and I finally had to do that.”

-Donna, Age 39 (never diagnosed)
Infected 1996

“My daughter got this when she was 14 swimming in the Mary’s river.....They couldn’t diagnose it for 3 years, then they tried treating it but it didn’t work....She got a scholarship to college. She had to cut back on her course load because of the headaches and fatigue, and now she has lost her scholarship.”

- Shelly, mother of 20-year old
patient, infected 1999

“This has changed the course of my life. I can’t get away from it. When I’m out with my friends, it’s hard to think about anything else because I’m in pain all the time.”


- Sheryl, Age 25,
Infected 2001


“The worst part is being this sick in front of the kids. It scares them to death. I don’t know who will take care of them if I don’t make it through this.”

- Rob, age 39
Infected 2002

“The fatigue is the worst part. I’ve had this for four years, and I can’t get through more than a few hours of the day without lying down.”

-Bill, Age 58,
Infected 2002





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☐ 1: [Zhongguo Ji Sheng Chong Xue Yu Ji Sheng Chong Bing Za Zhi.](#) 2005 Dec 30;23(6):444-8.

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[Experimental infection of mice with Blastocystis hominis]

[Article in Chinese]

[Yao FR](#), [Qiao JY](#), [Zhao Y](#), [Zhang X](#), [Yang JH](#), [Li XQ](#).

Department of Immunology and pathobiology, Medical School, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi 'an 710061, China.

OBJECTIVE: To seek a better pathway and proper number of parasites for Blastocystis hominis (B.h) infection in normal and immunocompromised ICR mice. **METHODS:** (1) 10(4), 10(5) and 10(6) B.h, cultured in RPMI 1640 medium from 3 generations were used to infect mice through oral and rectum; (2) 10(6) B.h were used to infect immunocompromised mice through rectum. The reproduction of B.h in gastrointestinal tract and the pathologic changes in the tissues were observed. **RESULTS:** Mice were infected by B.h through either oral or rectum. The infected immunocompromised mice showed slow locomotion, depressed, lethargy, and descended body weight. Some infected mice discharged mucus feces, a few of them died during the experiment. Parasites were found in the whole gastrointestinal tract. Severe edema, hyperemia and congestion were observed in the tissues of jejunum, ileum, cecum and colon. The epithelia of small intestine and colonic mucous membrane showed exfoliation, inflammatory cell infiltration in submucosa, and structural changes in glands. **CONCLUSION:** Mice were more susceptible to Blastocystis hominis infection through rectum than orally. The parasites can be found in the whole gastrointestinal tract of mice, and can breed rapidly and cause significant pathological change in the gastrointestinal mucosa in immunocompromised mice.

PMID: 16566218 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Experimental Blastocystis hominis infection in laboratory mice. [Parasitol Res. 1997]

Blastocystis hominis infection and intestinal injury. [Am J Med Sci. 1994]

Cytopathic effect of Blastocystis hominis after intramuscular inoculation into laboratory mice. [Parasitol Res. 1998]

Clinical significance and frequency of Blastocystis hominis in Turkish patients with hematological malignancy. [Acta Med Okayama. 2000]

Invasive Blastocystis hominis infection in a child. [Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 1994]

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☐ 1: [Parasitol Res.](#) 1997;83(4):319-25.

 [Links](#)

Experimental Blastocystis hominis infection in laboratory mice.

[Moe KT](#), [Singh M](#), [Howe J](#), [Ho LC](#), [Tan SW](#), [Chen XQ](#), [Ng GC](#), [Yap EH](#).

Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Republic of Singapore.

Young (less than 8 weeks old) immunocompetent BALB/c mice became infected with *Blastocystis hominis* after inoculation of fecal cysts orally and of in vitro axenic-culture forms intracecally. This study confirmed that the fecal cyst was the form responsible for external transmission and that the mode of transmission was by the fecal-oral route. The infection was self-limiting and the infected BALB/c mice appeared normal except that some of them showed weight loss and lethargy. Both vacuolar and granular forms were found in the cecum, but only cyst forms were observed in the colon. Histological examination of the cecum and colon showed intense inflammatory-cell infiltration, edematous lamina propria, and mucosal sloughing. It is apparent that although *B. hominis* is not invasive, it is capable of causing pathogenesis in BALB/c mice.

PMID: 9134552 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Fecal-oral transmission of the cyst form of *Blastocystis hominis* in rats. [Parasitol Res. 2004]

Cytopathic effect of *Blastocystis hominis* after intramuscular inoculation into laboratory mice. [Parasitol Res. 1998]

[Experimental infection of mice with *Blastocystis hominis*] [ong Xue Fu](#), [Shen Hong Bing](#), [Za Zhi](#). 2005]

In vitro encystment and experimental infections of *Blastocystis hominis*. [Parasitol Res. 1993]

Irregular shedding of *Blastocystis hominis*. [Parasitol Res. 1999]

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