

# Lymphatic Filariasis

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## Lymphatic Filariasis

### About

- It is commonly known as elephantiasis, is a neglected tropical disease.
- Infection occurs when filarial parasites infect humans through mosquitoes.
- It can cause abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability and social stigma.

### Symptoms

- Inflammation: An overactivated immune system.
- Lymphedema: Fluid buildup in your lymphatic system.
- Hydrocele: Swelling and fluid buildup in the scrotum.
- Edema: Swelling and fluid buildup in your arms, legs, breasts and female genitals (vulva).

### Transmission

- Mosquitoes become infected with microfilariae by consuming blood by biting an infected host.
- Microfilariae mature into infective larvae inside the mosquito. When infected mosquitoes bite a person, the mature parasitic larvae accumulate on the skin, where they enter the body..

### Causes

- *Wuchereria bancrofti*: responsible for 90% of the cases.
- *Brugia malayi*, which causes most of the remainder of the cases.
- *Brugia timori*, which also causes the disease.

### Treatment

- The preventive chemotherapy strategy recommended by the WHO is mass drug administration (MDA).
- The drugs used have a limited effect on adult parasites, but they effectively reduce the density of microfilariae in the bloodstream and prevent the spread of parasites to mosquitoes.

