Intestinal Parasites (Protozoan)

Your exam shows that you have a tiny intestinal parasite. It can only be seen with a microscope. Giardia and cryptosporidia are the two most common protozoan type intestinal parasites. **They are usually spread through contaminated food and water**.

SYMPTOMS

These parasites may cause symptoms that can last for weeks. These include:

- Abdominal cramps.
- Diarrhea.
- Foul-smelling stools.
- Bloating.

DIAGNOSIS

Fresh stool samples must be checked for parasites and their eggs. This may need to be repeated several times to find the parasites.

TREATMENT

Antibiotic treatment for 5-10 days may be needed to get rid of some of these parasites. Please see your caregiver for a follow-up exam to be sure you are cured, or if your symptoms are not improved after several days of treatment.

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