Neurohelminthiases are more prevalent in geographic areas where environmental factors and poor sanitary conditions favor the parasitism between man and animals. In recent years, population shifts and rapid transport have facilitated the spread of certain helminthic diseases from endemic to nonendemic areas. Although many helminthic parasites are known to cause various human diseases afflicting many millions of people in the world, neurohelminthiases are often not diagnosed because they have been unrecognized by clinicians or confirmatory diagnostic tests are not easily available. Paragonimiasis and schistosomiasis (fluke diseases) are endemic in Asia, Africa and Central America; lesions in the central nervous system (CNS) due to ectopic parasitism of the preadult and adult flukes produce various clinical features that often mimic other diseases. In most cestodiasis (tapeworm disease), the adult worm that lodges in the alimentary tract does not involve the CNS; however, the larvae often enter the nervous system by migration or by metastases via the systemic circulation, where they cause cystic lesions. Cysticercosis is the most common CNS helminthic infection especially in endemic areas where the parasitism between man and pigs is maintained. In other cestodiases, infections to man are often caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with feces of the definitive hosts (mammals or man). Nematodes (roundworms) generally enter the CNS by ectopic migration of the infective larvae (larva migrans); the routes of infection to man vary with species of the nematodes, and the animal hosts they infest. Angiostrongylus cantonensis is a neurotropic nematode that requires the CNS of mammalian hosts for its growth; the third-stage larvae frequently invade skeletal muscles and the nervous system. Strongyloides, a gastrointestinal nematode, is known to cause CNS involvement in immunosuppressed patients. Recently, some nematodes heretofore unknown to cause human parasitism have been recognized as the causative agents of CNS infections ¹⁾.

1)

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