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Amebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica) 1990 Case Definition | CDC  
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Amebiasis (  
Entamoeba histolytica  
)  
1990 Case Definition  
Amebiasis (  
Entamoeba histolytica  
)  
1990 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
Clinical Description  
Infection of the large intestine by  
Entamoeba histolytica  
may result in an illness of variable severity ranging from mild, chronic diarrhea to fulminant dysentery. Infection also may be asymptomatic. Extraintestinal infection also can occur (e.g., hepatic abscess).  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Intestinal amebiasis  
Demonstration of cysts or trophozoites of  
E. histolytica  
in stool,  
OR  
Demonstration of trophozoites in tissue biopsy or ulcer scrapings by culture or histopathology  
Extraintestinal amebiasis  
Demonstration of E. histolytica trophozoites in extraintestinal tissue  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
Confirmed, intestinal amebiasis: a clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed  
Confirmed, extraintestinal amebiasis: a parasitologically confirmed infection of extraintestinal tissue, or among symptomatic persons (with clinical or radiographic findings consistent with extraintestinal infection), demonstration of specific antibody against  
E. histolytica  
as measured by indirect hemagglutination or other reliable immunodiagnostic test (e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)  
Comments  
Asymptomatic intestinal carriage of  
E. histolytica  
should not be reported. Among asymptomatic persons, a positive serologic test does not necessarily indicate extraintestinal amebiasis.  
The 1990 case definition appearing on this page was re-published in the 1997  
MMWR  
Recommendations and Reports titled  
Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance  
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1  
Thus, the 1990 and 1997 versions of the case definition are identical.  
References  
CDC. (1997). Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance.  
MMWR  
, 46(RR-10), 1-55.  
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00047449.htm  
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