

Ascarides Nematoda antibodies

General:

Ascarids belong to the maw worms (family of the nematoda or round worms). The most common Ascarids are *Ascaris lumbricoides* and *A. suis*. They occur worldwide, primarily in tropical areas. The vegetative form is 150-200 mm long, 2-4 mm thick, roundly shaped, the ends convert. Ingestion of worm eggs occurs by oral intake of contaminated salad or vegetables. Special vectors do not exist. The larvae develop in the jejunum and penetrate through liver and lung alveoli within 8-20 days until their final nidation. Egg distribution and verification in stool is possible after approx. 8- 12 weeks and can last for 1 year. Fever and phlebitis of the intestinal wall are early symptoms 6-10 days after infection.

Typical symptoms after the 3rd week are abdominal pain, gastroenteritis or bronchitis. Pneumonia or Loeffler's syndrome (eosinophilic infiltrate of the lung) is described. In case of infection with 30-40 worms the daily protein loss can amount to 4 g. Asymptomatic carriers are frequent. Infection with up to 200 worms can be lethal in up to 3% of the cases. The course of the disease is self-limiting, however reinfections are possible. Chronic course: liver damage, liver abscesses, bile duct obstructions and rarely icterus can occur. Protein deficiency syndrome or liver carcinoma can present as late effects. Congenital infections are unknown.

Prevention: unwashed salad, fruits, vegetables etc. should be avoided. Diagnostics: antibodies in serum or direct verification in stool (**see also Worms/worm eggs in stool**).

Indication: suspicion of nematoda infection (e.g. ascarididae)

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: EIA

Units: MONA (multiples of non-specific activity)

Ref.- range: <10

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>