

Rodent Pinworms

Agent, Species: *Syphacia obvelata*, *Aspicularis tetraptera* and *Syphacia muris*

Host: Mouse and Rat

Transmission: Fecal-Oral (Ova ingestion)

Clinical disease: No clinical signs are usually seen, heavy parasite loads may lead to rectal prolapse, perianal irritation and can affect immune competency.

Diagnosis: Direct exam of cecal content, fecal float and tape test to identify adult worms and eggs.

Prevention and treatment: Commonly treated using medicated fenbendazole chow, topical or parenteral Ivermectin. Prevention and control of infestation are difficult because the eggs are very light and have been shown to aerosolize, resulting in widespread exposure. Pinworm eggs can survive for long periods of time in adverse environmental conditions. Strict sanitary procedures, use of filter hoods to prevent aerosol transmission, and regular ova examinations with parasiticide treatment of infected animals may control the parasitism. Rederivation will also eliminate the infection.

Research complication: Possible effect on immune competency.

References

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