

4<sup>th</sup> stage –Biology Dept.

2024-2025

Lecture 2

# Protozoa:

Is defined as a microscopic unicellular eukaryotes organisms.

The single cell has a relatively complex internal structure and it performs various complex metabolic activities such as digestion, reproduction, respiration, excretion, etc.

- Reproduction: Asexually and Sexually
- Asexual reproduction by binary fusion, multiple fusion or budding.
- Sexual reproduction by conjugation or by fusion of gametes (syngamy).
- Life history often completed with alternation of asexual and sexual phases.
- Encystment is a common protective phase, commonly occurs to resist the unfavorable conditions of food.

Nutrition by absorption of nutrients or ingestion of solid particles by the help of pseudopodia or cytosome.

Respiration through diffusion of gases (aerobic and anaerobic).

Excretion through diffusion through the body or by excretory vacuoles.

### **Systematic classification**

The protozoa are classified into six phyla. This classification is based on the morphology of the protozoa as demonstrated by light and scanning electron microscopy.

Three of them important phyla, which contain species of medical important causing disease in human, and these are:

Phylum 1: Sarcomastigophora (Flagella / psedopodia) Phylum 2: Apicomplexa Phylum 3: Ciliophora (Ciliated)

# Genus Entamoeba

Numerous amoebic protozoa can inhabit the gastro-intestinal tract of humans.

*Entamoeba histolytica* is the only species pathogenic to human.

Other species are non-pathogenic (*Entamoeba dispar, E. hartmanni, E. polecki, E. coli* and *E. gingivalis*).

# *Entamoeba histolytica* Schaudinn, 1903

### **Classification of the amoebae**

The amoebae belongs to the

- Phylum: Sarcomastigophora
- Subphylum: Sarcodina
- Class: Lobosea
- Order: Amoebida
- Genus: Entamoeba
- E.g.: Entamoeba histolytica

#### Disease:

*Entamoeba histolytica* causes intestinal amoebiasis.

The infection is worldwide in distribution.

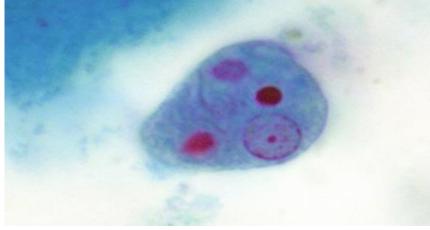
The parasite is the third leading parasitic cause of death in the developing countries. Also it's a causative agent of amoebic dysentery and amoebic liver abscess.

### Habitat

The trophozoites of *Entamoeba histolytica* are present in the lumen and in the mucosa and submucosa of the large intestine.

# Morphology The parasite occurs in 3 stages: ≻Trophozoite ≻Pre-cyst

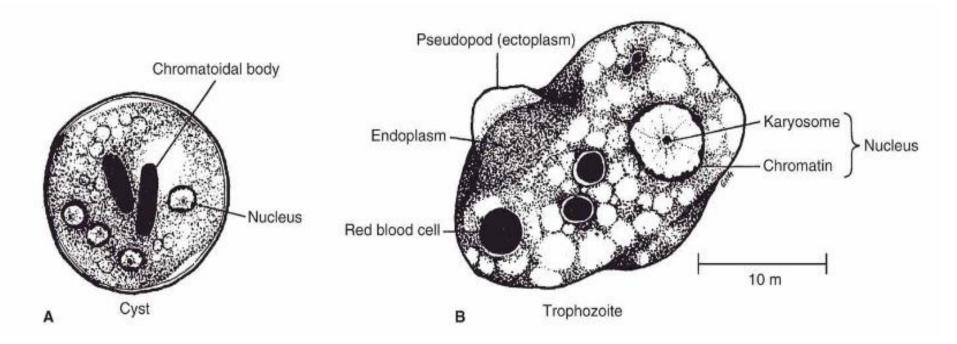
≻Cyst

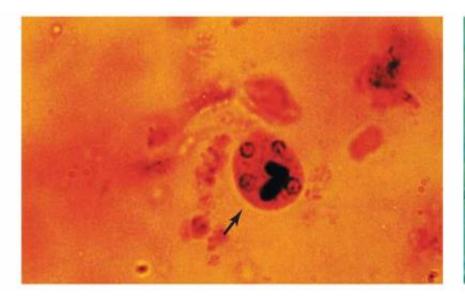


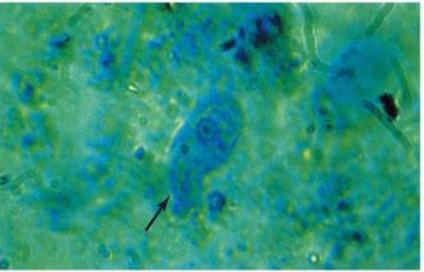
# Morphology

# **Cyst (Infective form)**

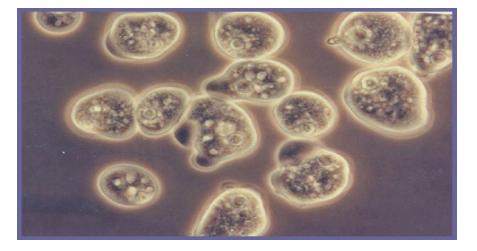
It is small and spherical, measures (10-16)µm in diameter. The mature cyst (quadrinucleate) contains four nuclei but does not contain any red blood cells or food particles..







# Morphology

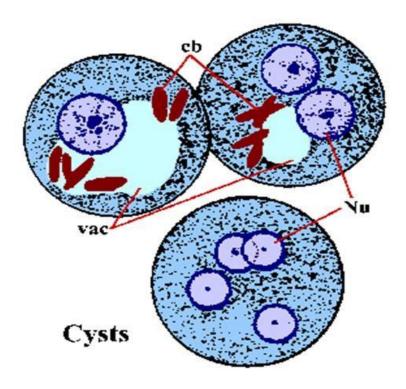




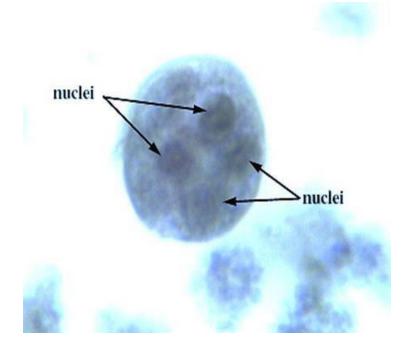
Entamoeba histolytica trophozoit endoplasm red blood cells ectoplasm nucleus with karyosome 20um

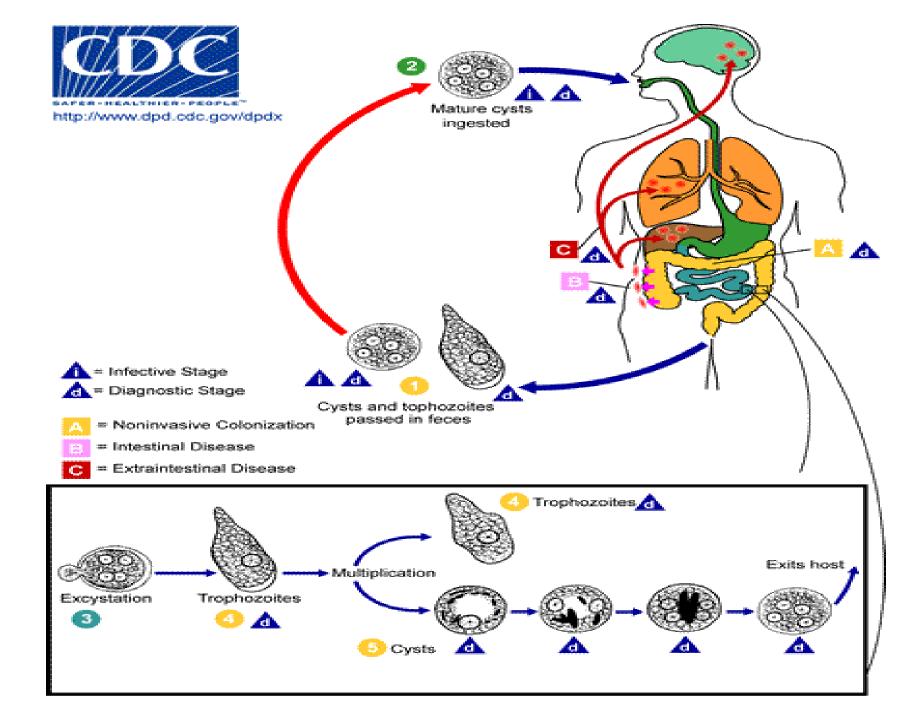
# Morphology

# **Cyst (Infective form)**









# Life cycle

It is simple and is completed in a single host (human). Human acquires infection by ingestion of water and food contaminated with mature quadrinucleate cysts.

On ingestion, cysts excyst in the small intestine, liberating a single trophozoite with four nuclei (*excystation*).

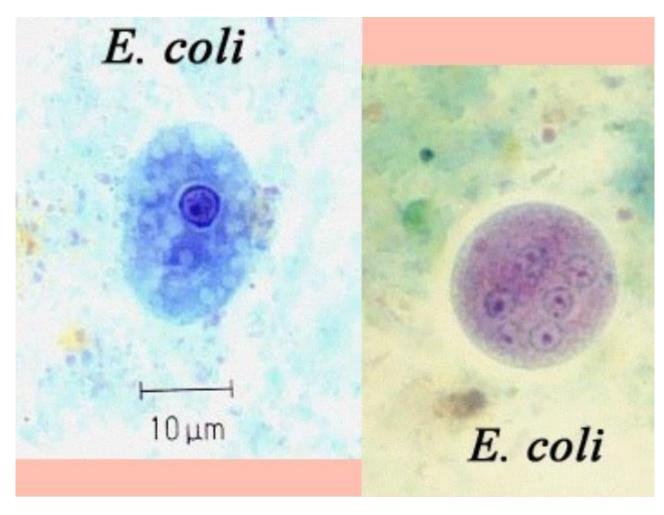
Which they grow and multiply by simple binary fission in the large intestine. Then they colonise on mucosal surfaces and in crypts of the large intestine. Reservoir, source and transmission of infection Food and water contaminated by human faeces that contain cyst are the main sources of infection. Infection is transmitted from one person to

another by following methods:

1. Faecal-oral route: Amoebiasis is transmitted orally by ingestion of water, vegetables and food contaminated by faeces containing quadrinucleate cysts.

- 2. Vectors: Flies and cockroaches mechanically may transmit cyst from the faeces to the unprotected food and water.
- 3. Sexual contact

### Entamoeba coli



Trophozoite

cyst

# Entamoeba coli

Trophozoite of *E. coli* is the largest amoeba present in the large intestine of human.

Cytoplasm is granular and contains bacteria and cellular debris. It never contains any red blood cells (RBCs), unlike *E. histolytic*, it never lyses hosts tissue. It shows sluggish movement by pseudopodium.

Pseudopodium is blunt and granular, not finger and hyaline like pseudopodia of *E. histolytica*.

#### 2-Entamoeba coli

It is similar to *E. histolytica* with exception of the following differences:

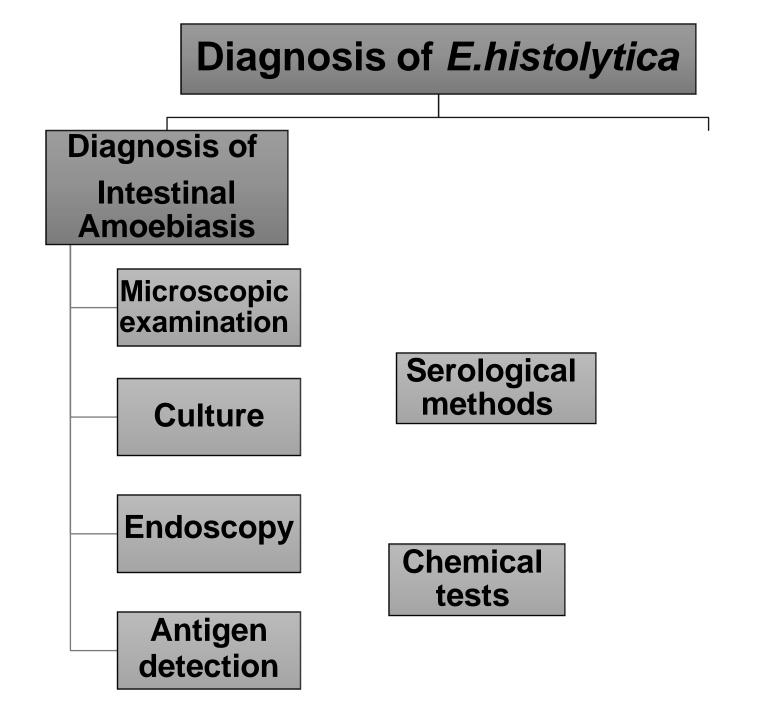
Trophozoite	E. histolytica	E. coli
Disease	Amoebiasis(Amoebic dysentery or Amoebic liver abscess)	Non pathogenic
Motility	Active	Sluggish
Size	10-40 mµ	20-50 тµ
Cytoplasm	Ectoplasm clearly differentiation from endoplasm	Not clearly differentiation from endoplasm
Food vacuole	Contain R.B.C in acute case	Contain bacteria, yeast & other particles without RBC
Karyosome	Small &central in the nucleus	Large & not central eccentric
Cyst	Have cyst stage	Have cyst stage
Diameter	10-15 mµ	10-30 mµ
Nuclei in mature cyst	4 Nuclei	8 Nuclei
Chromatin	Chromatin bodies from 1-4 &cigar-shape	Chromatin bodies from 10-15 &splinter shape

## Methods of examination:

# 1. Stool examination: this includes

- A. Stool microscopy
- B. Stool antigen detection
- C. Stool culture

The diagnosis is based on demonstration of the amoebae (both trophozoites and cysts) in stool specimens.



#### Entamoeba histolytica

#### A. Wet mount preparation:

(saline wet mount preparation – Logul's iodine wet mount preparation - Buffered methylene blue)

