

# Infections without borders

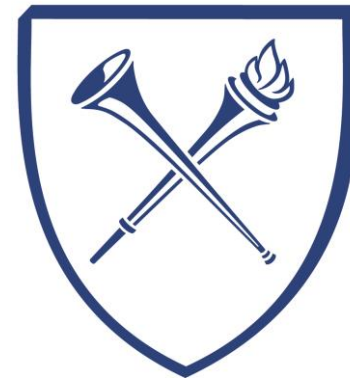
Jeannette Guarner, MD

Professor

Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs

Emory University

EMORY



# Financial Relationships

**No relevant financial relationship(s) exist**

- **I will not discuss off label use and/or investigational use in my presentation.**

**But you need to know that:**

- I am paid by The Emory Clinic
- I worked at CDC 1997-2007
- I was brought up in Mexico, thus funny accent, and worked in Mexico at the National Cancer Institute (INCan).

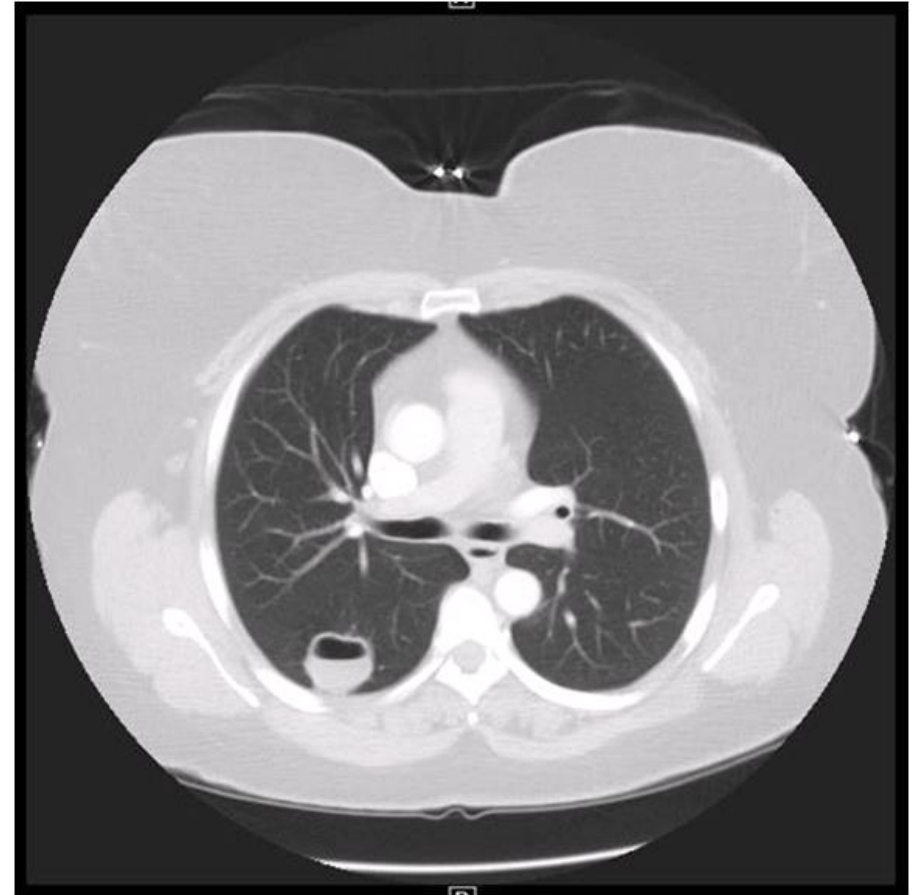
# Objectives

We will use cases to:

- Explore infectious diseases in patients that have travelled or lived in other locations thus, the microorganism may not be suspected.
- Identify tests that can be used for diagnosis of the cases presented.
- Discover pitfalls in diagnoses of the cases presented.

# Case 1

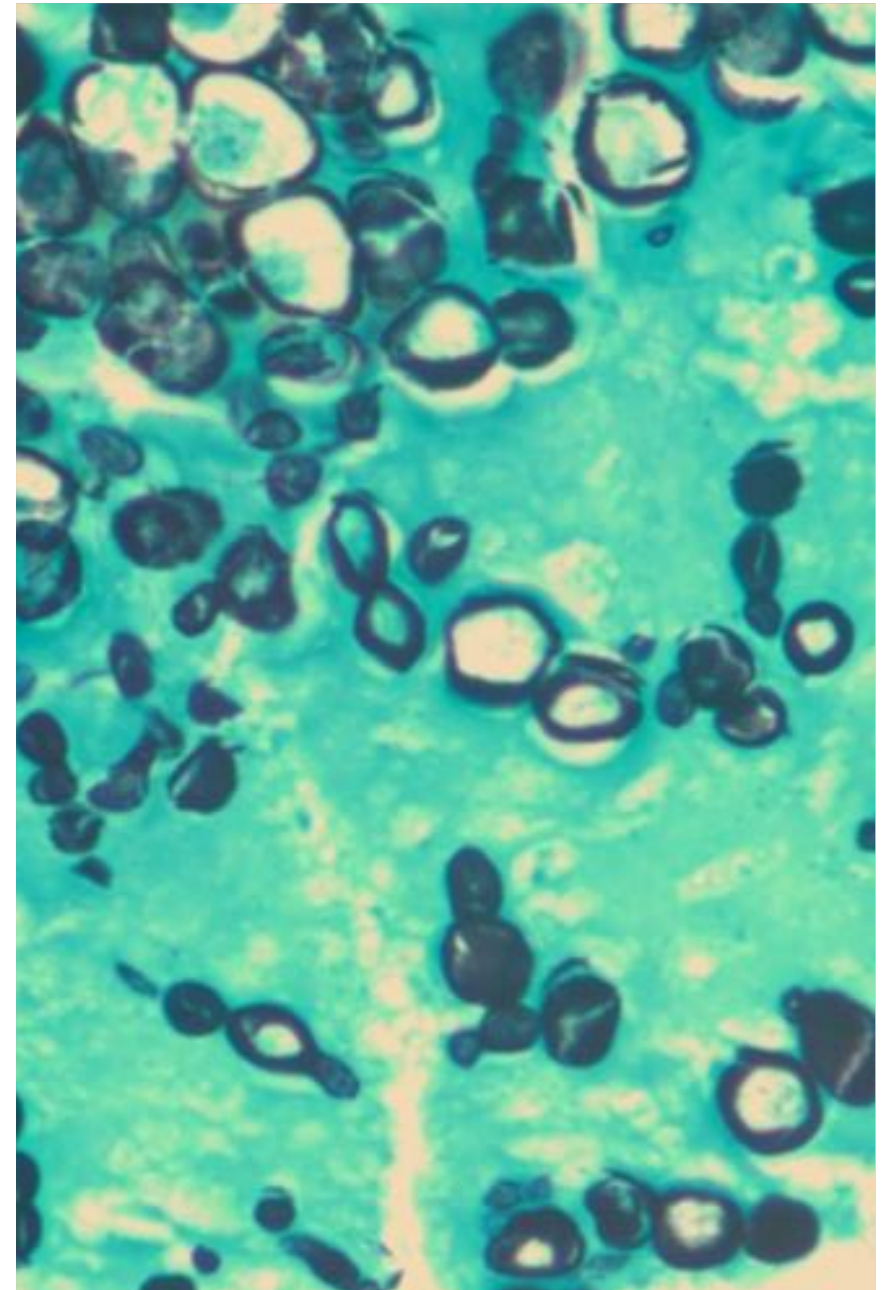
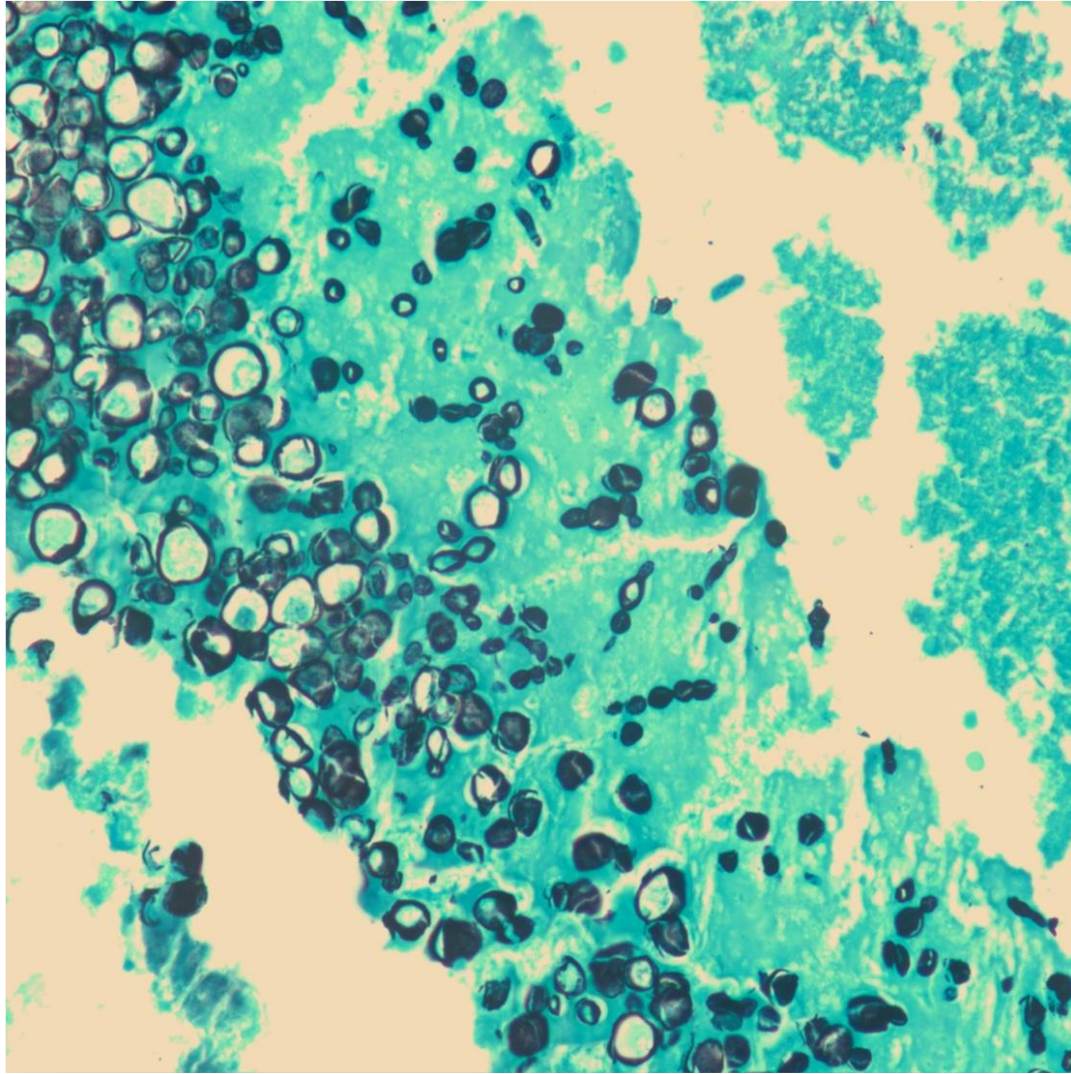
- 45 year old woman that is being worked up for severe persistent cough and shortness of breath, no fever
- She has a history of AML 7 years ago currently in remission.
- Imaging: right lung cavitory lesion
- She lived in Chihuahua, Mexico, while studying anthropology.
- She recently went to Arizona to do a train ride in Verde Canyon.



# Case continues

- PPD negative, sputum PCR for Mtb negative
- Bronchoscopy with biopsies negative for neoplasia
- Wedge resection
- Operative report describes a large cavitory lesion and purulent material
- Material sent to pathology and microbiology

Resident shows me:



QUESTION: What do you think this should be called?

1. *Cryptococcus*
2. *Coccidioides*
3. *Blastomyces*
4. Broad-based budding yeasts
5. Large yeasts

# Yeasts

Size  
Grouping, budding  
Epidemiology

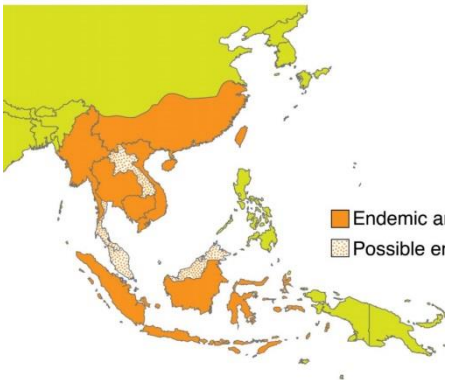
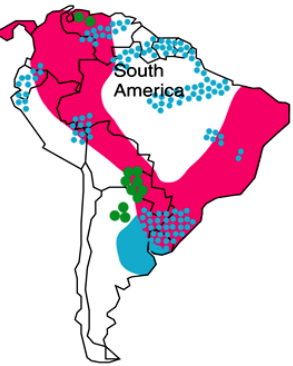
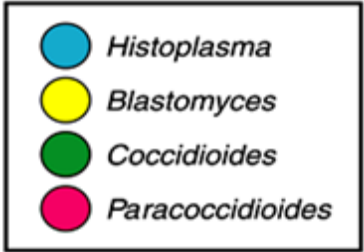
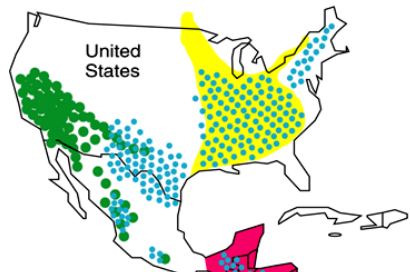
Small  
(2 -10  $\mu$ )

- Histoplasma*
- Talaromyces*
- Sporothrix*
- Emonsia*
- Cryptococcus*
- Candida glabrata*
- Pneumocystis*

Large  
(>10  $\mu$ )

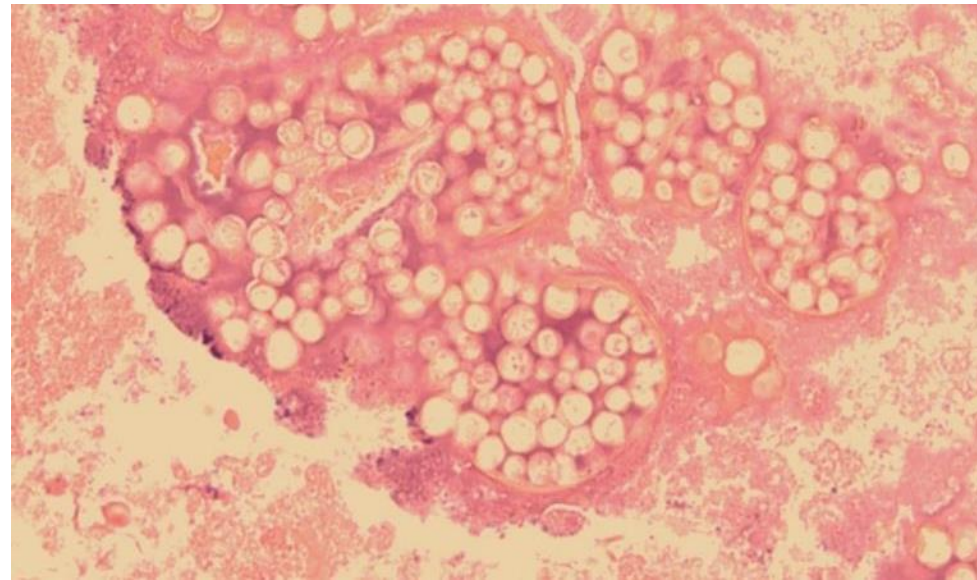
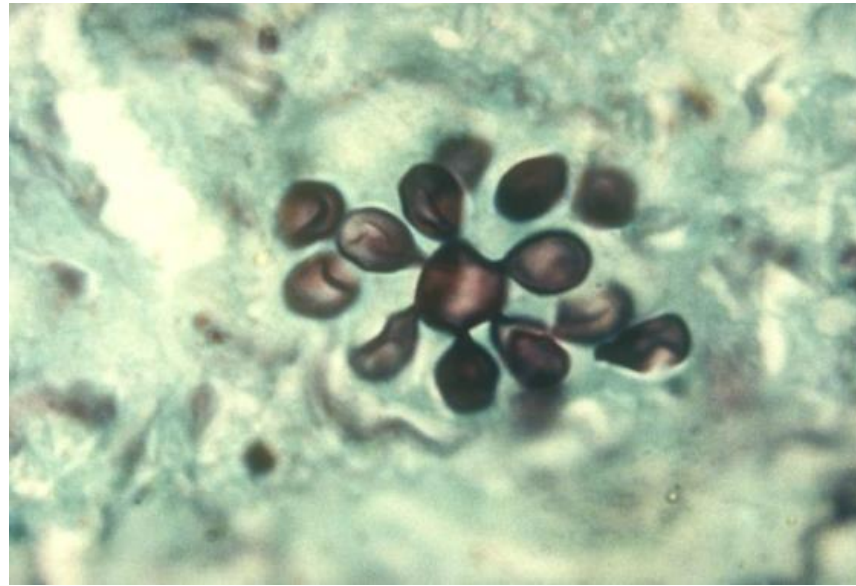
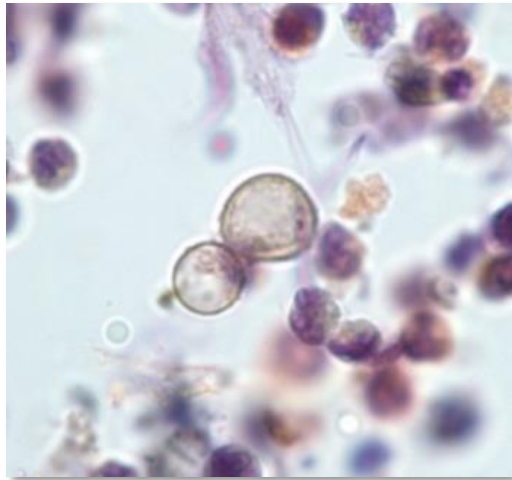
- Blastomyces*
- Coccidioides*
- Paracoccidioides*

Parasites:  
Toxoplasma,  
Leishmania,  
Trypanosome

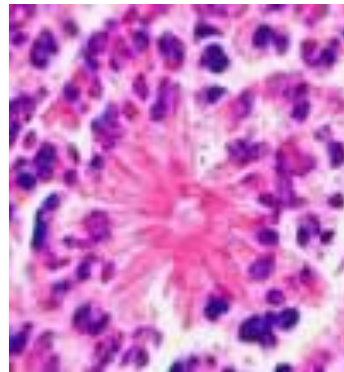
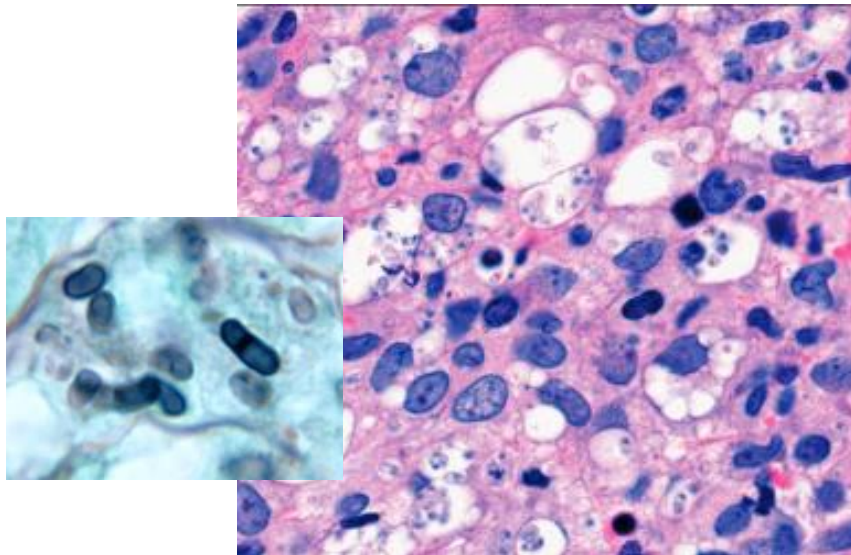
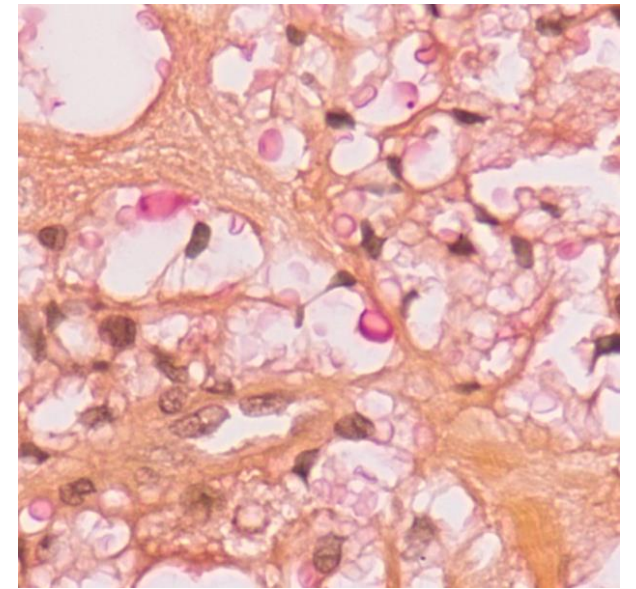
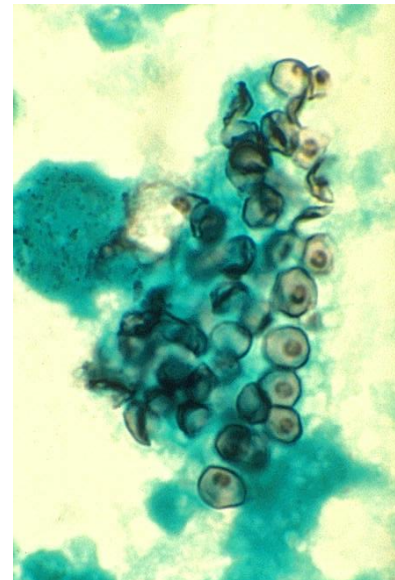
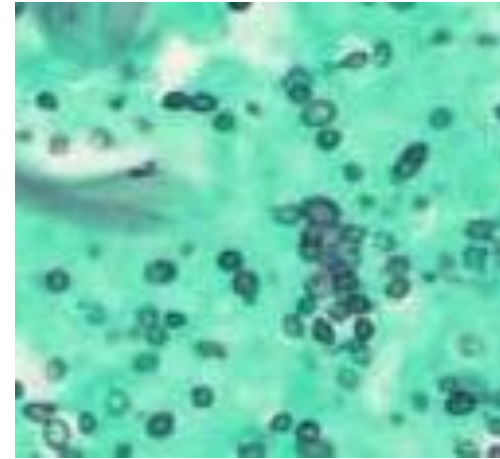
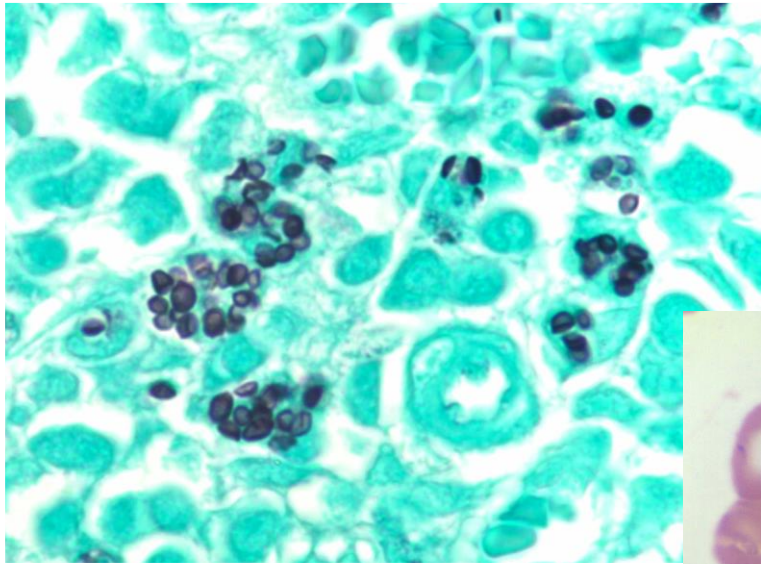




# Large yeasts



# Small yeasts



# When broad-based budding yeast are seen in pathology, what have cultures shown:

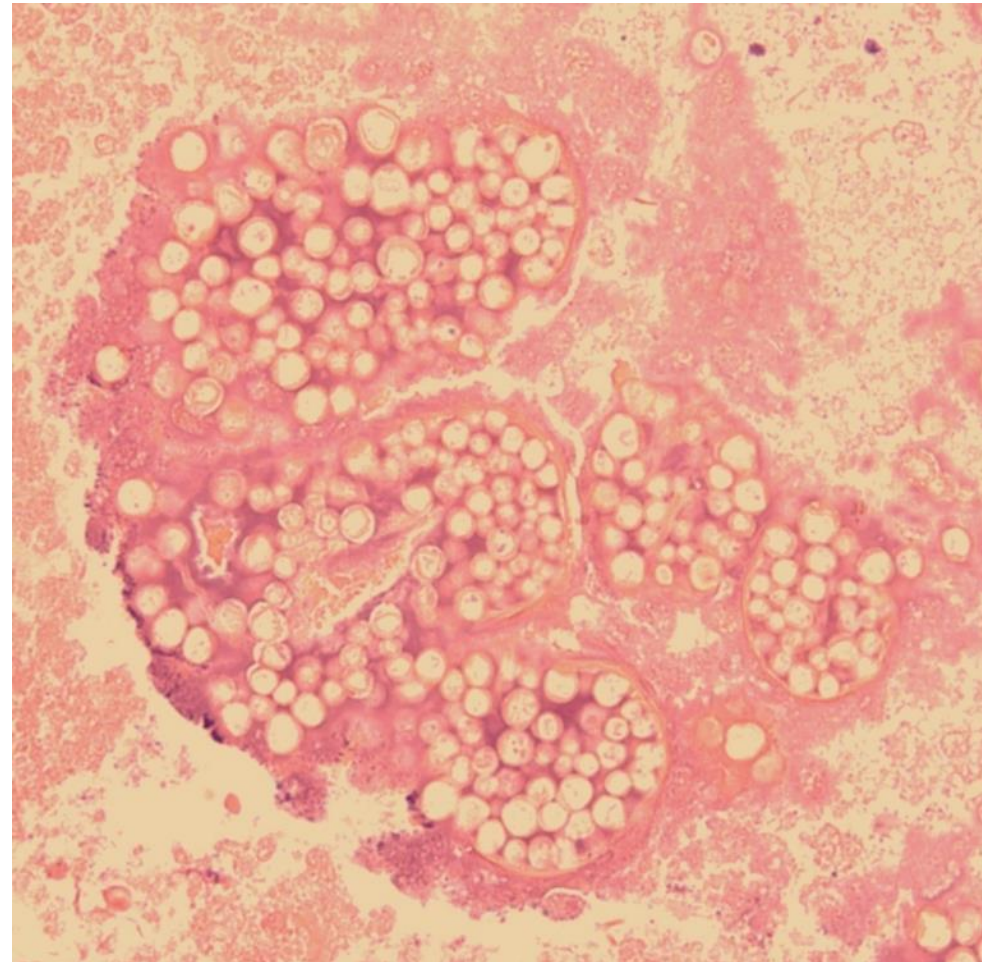
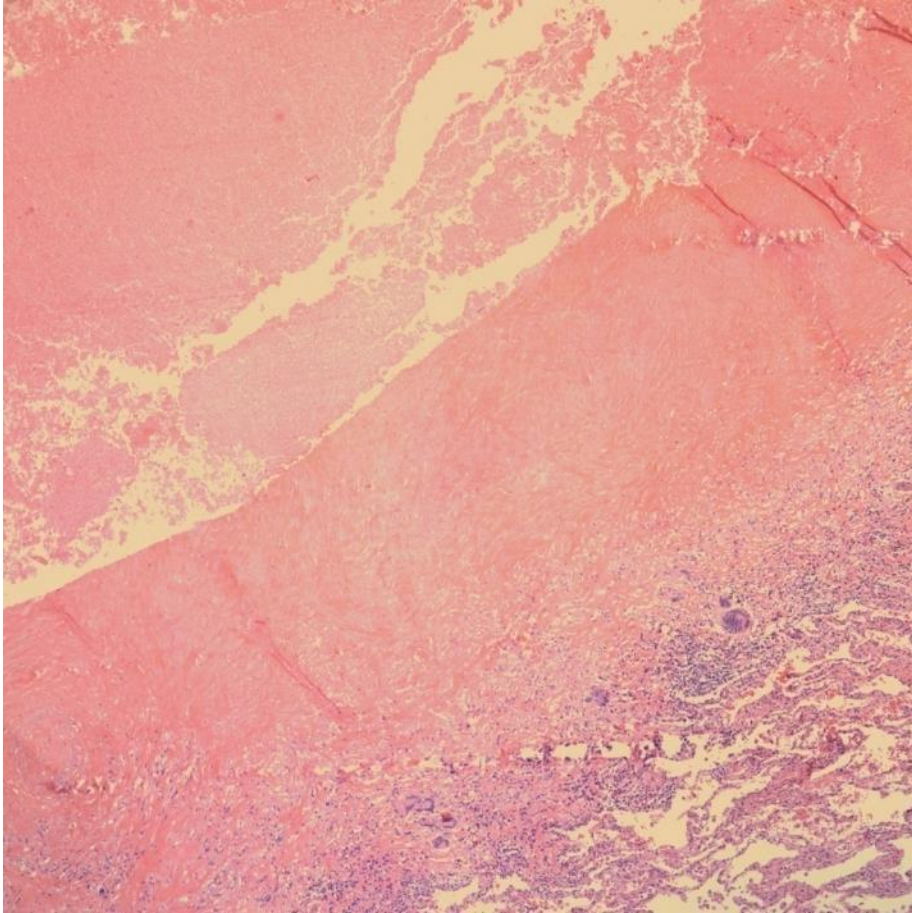
- High percent of cultures are overgrown with *Candida*.
- Retrospective study, 53 patients:
  - *Blastomyces* recovered in 67%
  - *Coccidioides immitis*, *Candida albicans* or *Aspergillus* from 4 (10%)
- Thus, not all broad based-budding yeasts in the 8 to 15 micron size range are *Blastomyces*.

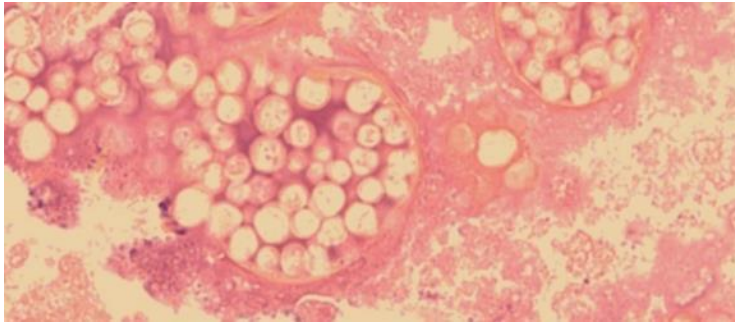
Lemos LB, et al. *Ann Diagn Pathol*. 2000;4:391-406.  
Patel AJ, et al *Am J Surg Pathol*. 2010;34:256-261.

# QUESTION: What should you do next?

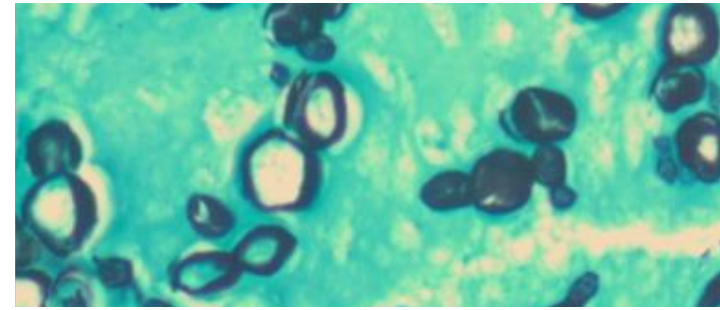
1. See more material on the case
2. Wait for the culture results to report
3. Suggest urine antigen tests

Review of more slides:





- **Description:** Spherules with multiple endospores (10 to 100 $\mu$  in size).
- **Diagnosis:** Spherules with multiple endospores.
- **Comment:** The morphology is consistent with *Coccidioides* spp.
  - Differential diagnosis: *Rhinosporidium seeberi* which has sporangia with endospores but is much larger.



- **Description:** Yeast ranging in size from 10 to 20 $\mu$  with broad-based budding.
- **Diagnosis:** Large budding yeasts
- **Comment:** The morphology is consistent with *Blastomyces* because broad based budding is noted, but other yeast can present with this morphology including *Histoplasma*, *Candida*, *Coccidioides* and others.



Guarner J, Brandt ME. Histopathologic diagnosis of fungal infections in the 21st century. Clin Micro Rev 2011; 24:247-80

# QUESTION: Which is an epidemiologic setting of coccidioidomycosis?

1. Having lived in Mississippi
2. Being a migrant from Vietnam
3. Travelled to South America for vacation
4. Going camping during the summer in the Colorado Rockies

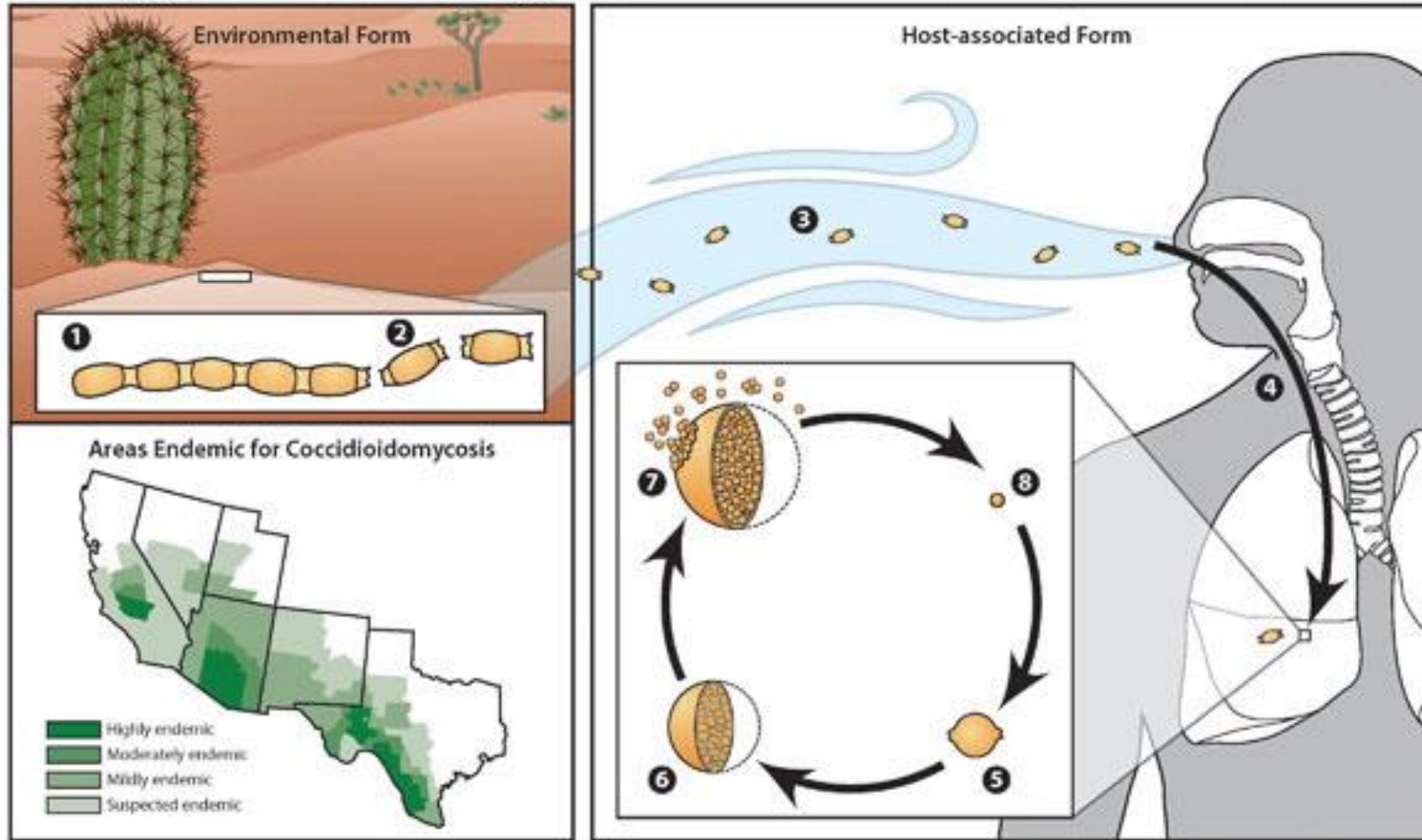


Areas with reported  
coccidioidomycosis

-  *C. immitis*
-  *C. posadasii*



# Biology of Coccidioidomycosis



In the environment, *Coccidioides* spp. exists as a mold (1) with septate hyphae. The hyphae fragment into arthroconidia (2), which measure only 2-4  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and are easily aerosolized when disturbed (3). Arthroconidia are inhaled by a susceptible host (4) and settle into the lungs. The new environment signals a morphologic change, and the arthroconidia become spherules (5). Spherules divide internally until they are filled with endospores (6). When a spherule ruptures (7) the endospores are released and disseminate within surrounding tissue. Endospores are then able to develop into new spherules (6) and repeat the cycle.

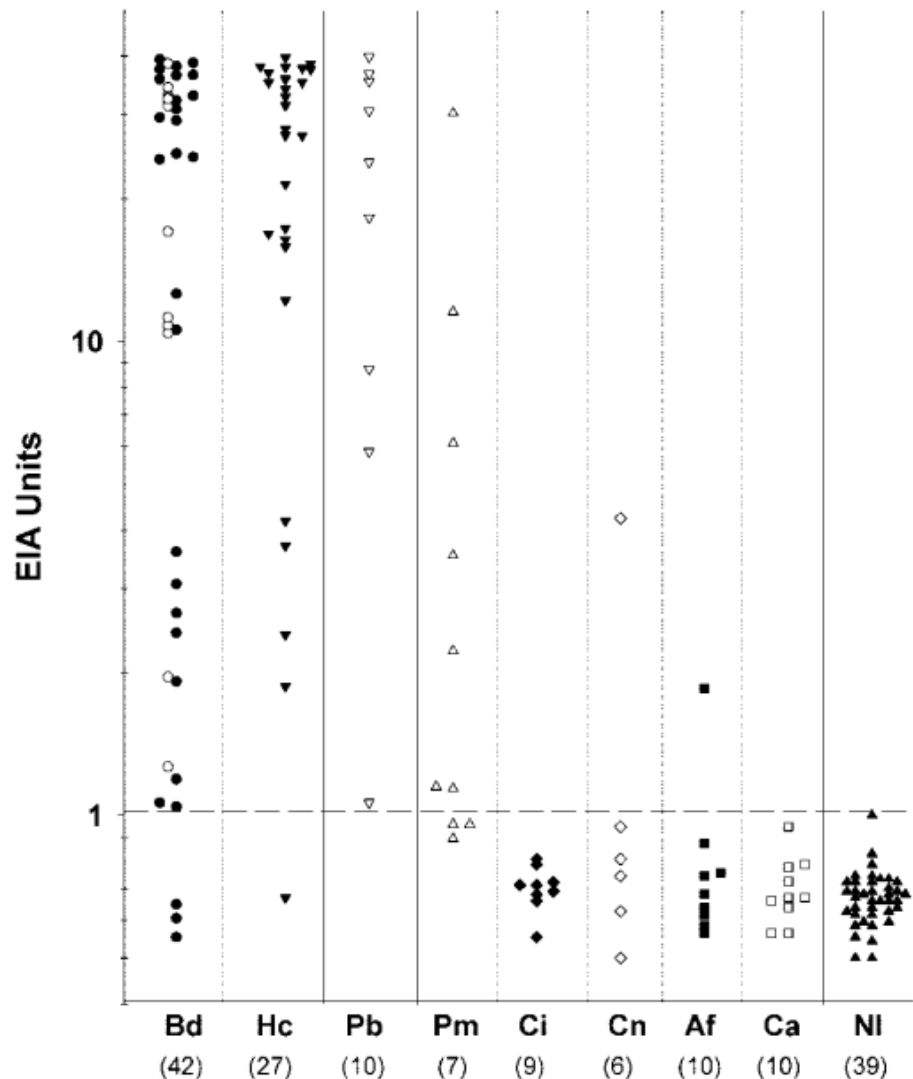


# Mycology laboratory



Grows easily in the laboratory  
(93% sensitivity)





Durkin M et al. J Clin Microbiol 2004; 42:4873  
 Measured *Blastomyces* antigen in urine.

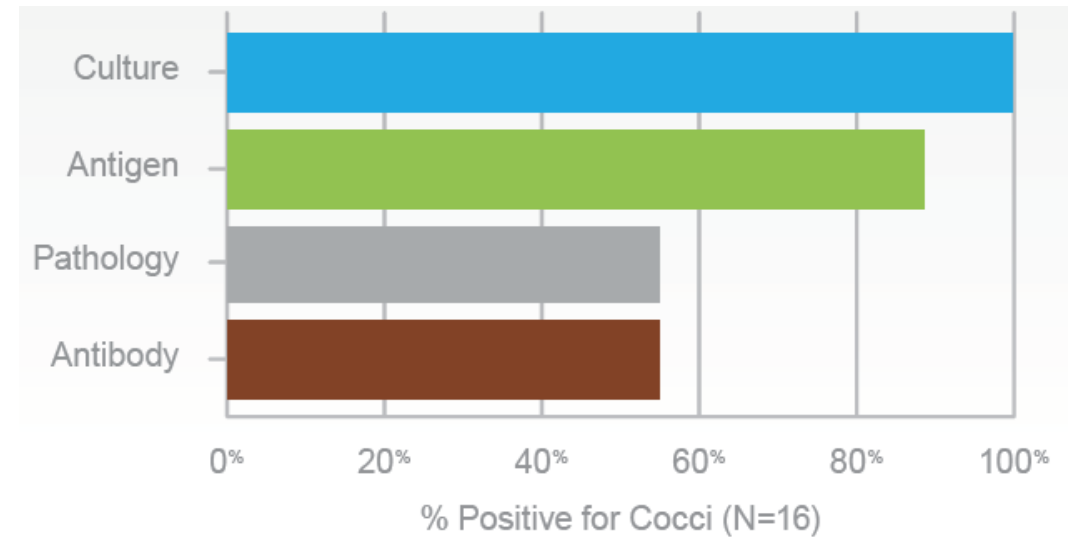
Bd, *B. dermatitidis*; Hc, *H. capsulatum*; Pb, *P. brasiliensis*; Pm, *P. marneffei*; Ci, *C. immitis*; Af, *A. fumigatus*; Ca, *C. albicans*; N1, normal controls.

TABLE 1. Blastomyces antigen positivity blastomycosis cases and controls

| Patient group                | No. positive/no. tested | % positive (95% confidence interval) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Blastomycosis                |                         |                                      |
| All                          | 39/42                   | 92.9 (80.5–98.5)                     |
| Pulmonary                    | 14/14                   |                                      |
| Disseminated                 | 25/28                   |                                      |
| Histoplasmosis               | 26/27                   | 96.3 (81.0–99.9)                     |
| Paracoccidioidomycosis       | 10/10                   | 100 (69.1–100.0)                     |
| Penicilliosis marneffei      | 7/10                    | 70 (34.7–93.3)                       |
| Cryptococcosis               |                         |                                      |
| All                          | 2/68                    | 2.9 (0.4–10.2)                       |
| Urine, initial cases         | 1/6                     |                                      |
| Urine, additional cases      | 0/19                    |                                      |
| Serum or CSF                 | 1/43                    |                                      |
| Aspergillosis                |                         |                                      |
| All                          | 1/88                    | 1.1 (0.0–6.2)                        |
| Urine, initial cases         | 1/9                     |                                      |
| Urine, additional cases      | 0/12                    |                                      |
| Serum, additional cases      | 0/8                     |                                      |
| Galactomannan positive serum | 0/59                    |                                      |
| Coccidioidomycosis           | 0/9                     | 0 (0.0–33.6)                         |
| Candidiasis                  | 0/10                    | 0 (0.0–30.8)                         |
| Healthy volunteers           | 0/39                    | 0 (0.0–9.0)                          |

# Coccidioidomycosis: Alternative diagnostic methods

- IgM and IgG measured using EIA and/or immunodiffusion
  - False negative serology in up to 38% of patients with hematogenous infection and 46% of fatal cases
- Urine antigens using EIA present in 71% of patients
  - Cross-reaction in 10% of patients with other endemic mycosis





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## Case 2

- 44-year-old male
- Presented with dyspnea, non-productive cough, pleuritic chest pain, profuse diaphoresis, and near syncopal event.
- Started symptoms 2–3 days prior to admission.
- Trip to Africa where he bought hides to make drums. He is a musician for an African dance troupe.

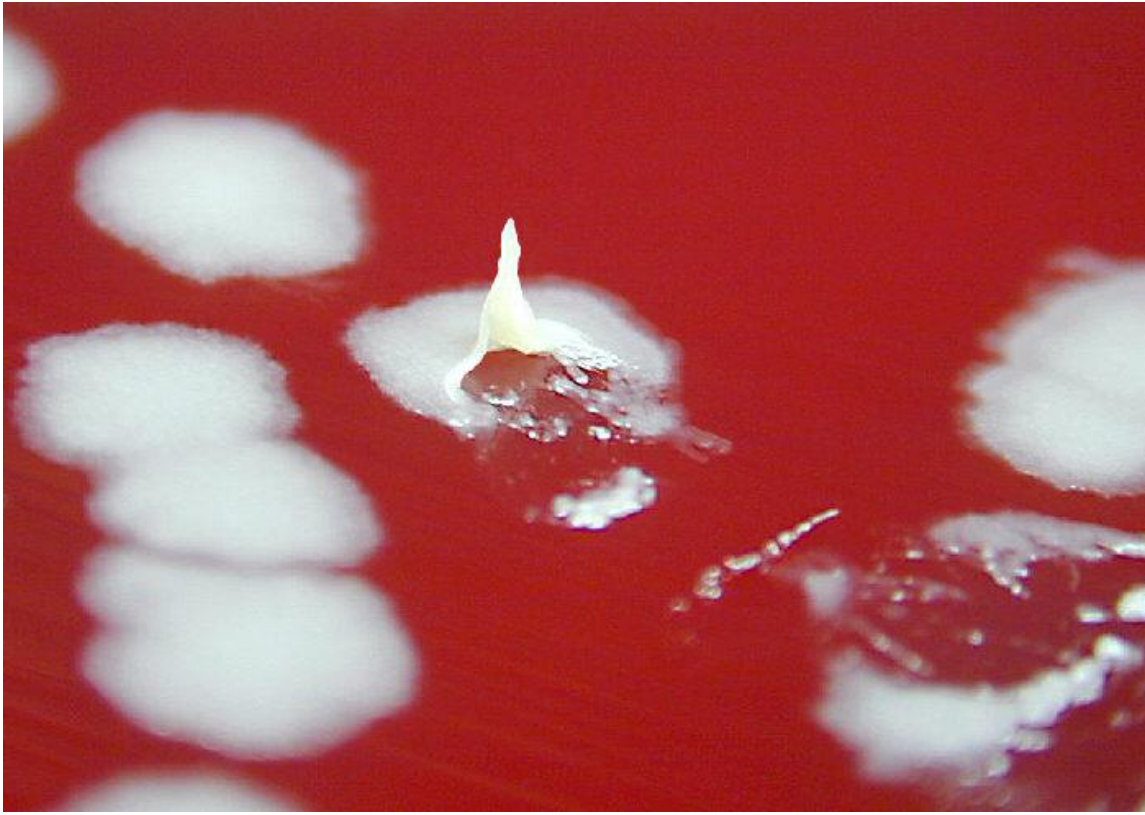
# Case continues

- Temperature 99.7°F, blood pressure 111/77 mm Hg, pulse 92/min, and respirations of 24/min.
- Decreased breath sounds in the left lung & end-expiratory wheezing at the base.
- Chest X Rays: cardiomegaly, left upper lobe infiltrate or atelectasis, small right lower lobe infiltrate, & bilateral pleural effusions.
- Laboratory: WBC 8.28 (63% neutrophils, 24% lymphocytes, 11% monocytes), normal hematocrit and platelets.

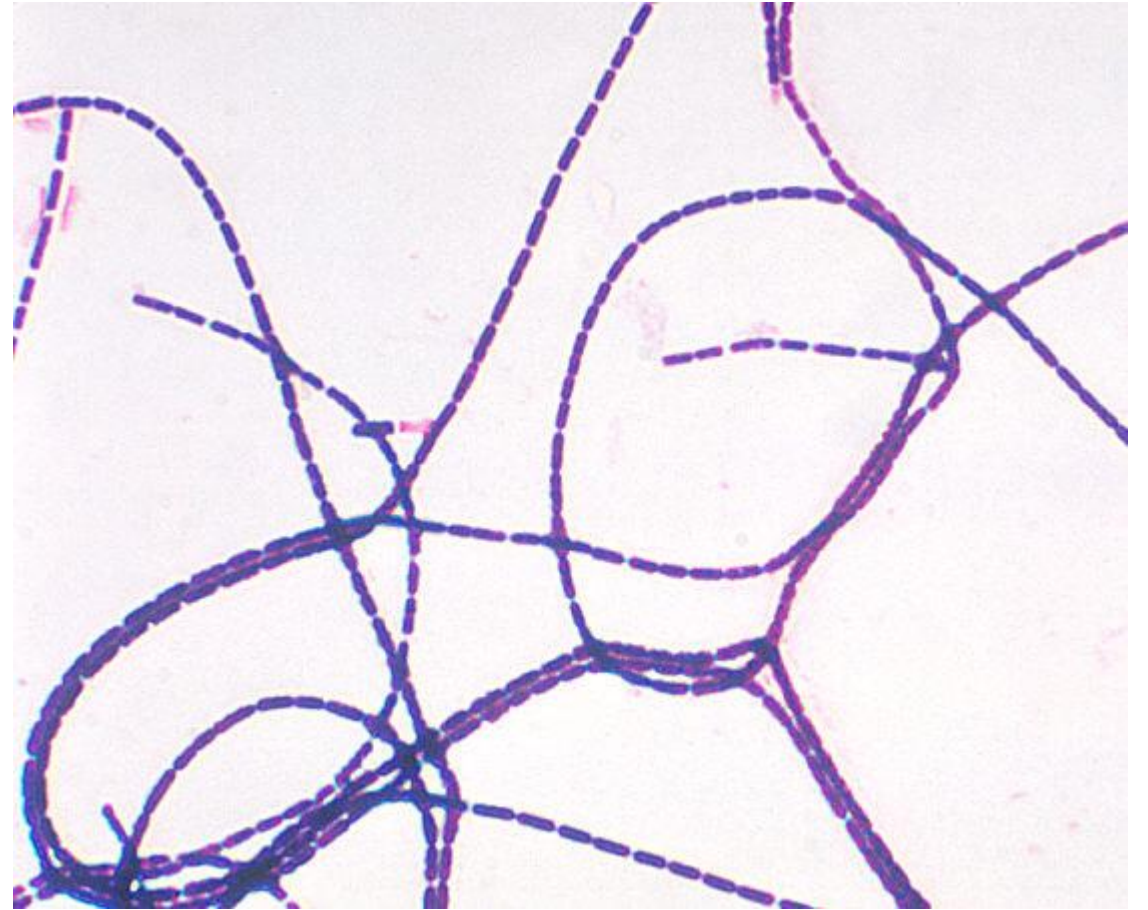


- Admitted to the intensive care unit, started on ceftriaxone and zithromax for presumed community acquired pneumonia.
- BacT/Alert System grew gram-positive rods



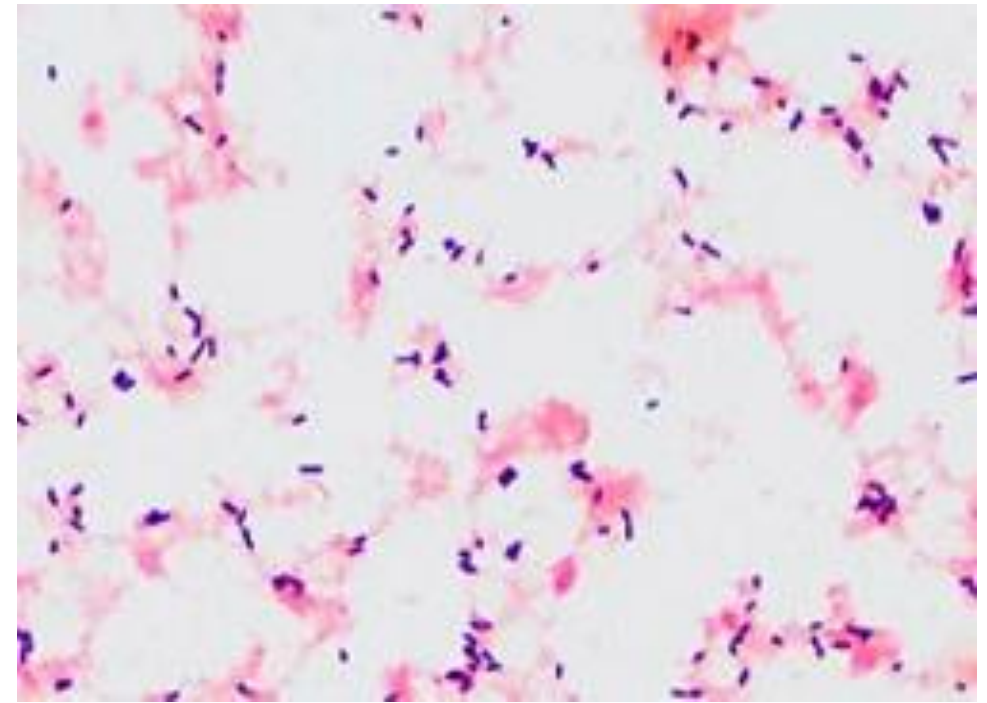


The organism has a capsule



# QUESTION: Diagnosis?

1. *Listeria monocytogenes*
2. *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*
3. *Tropheryma whipplei*
4. *Bacillus anthracis*



QUESTION: Once you suspect or know you have anthrax growing, who should you contact?

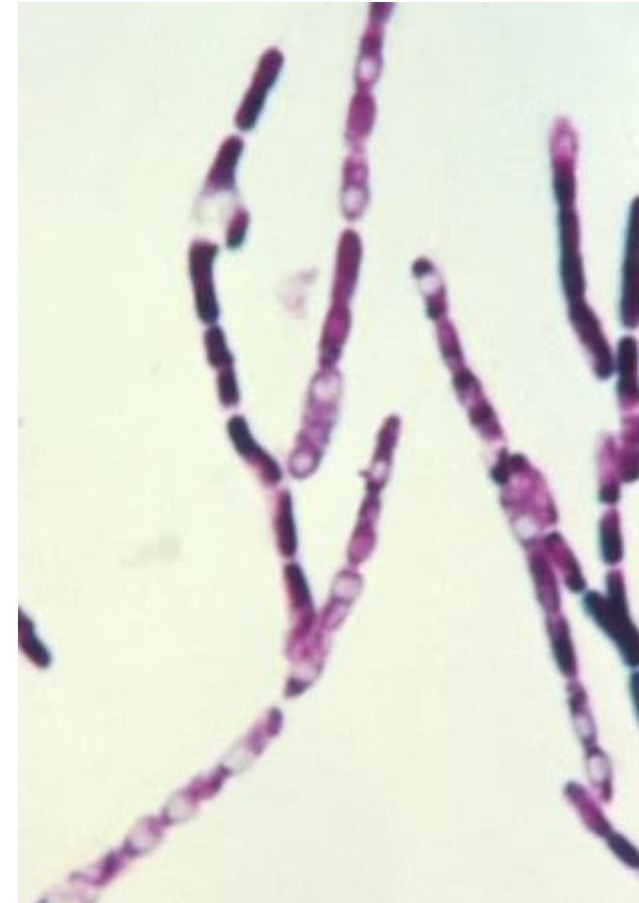
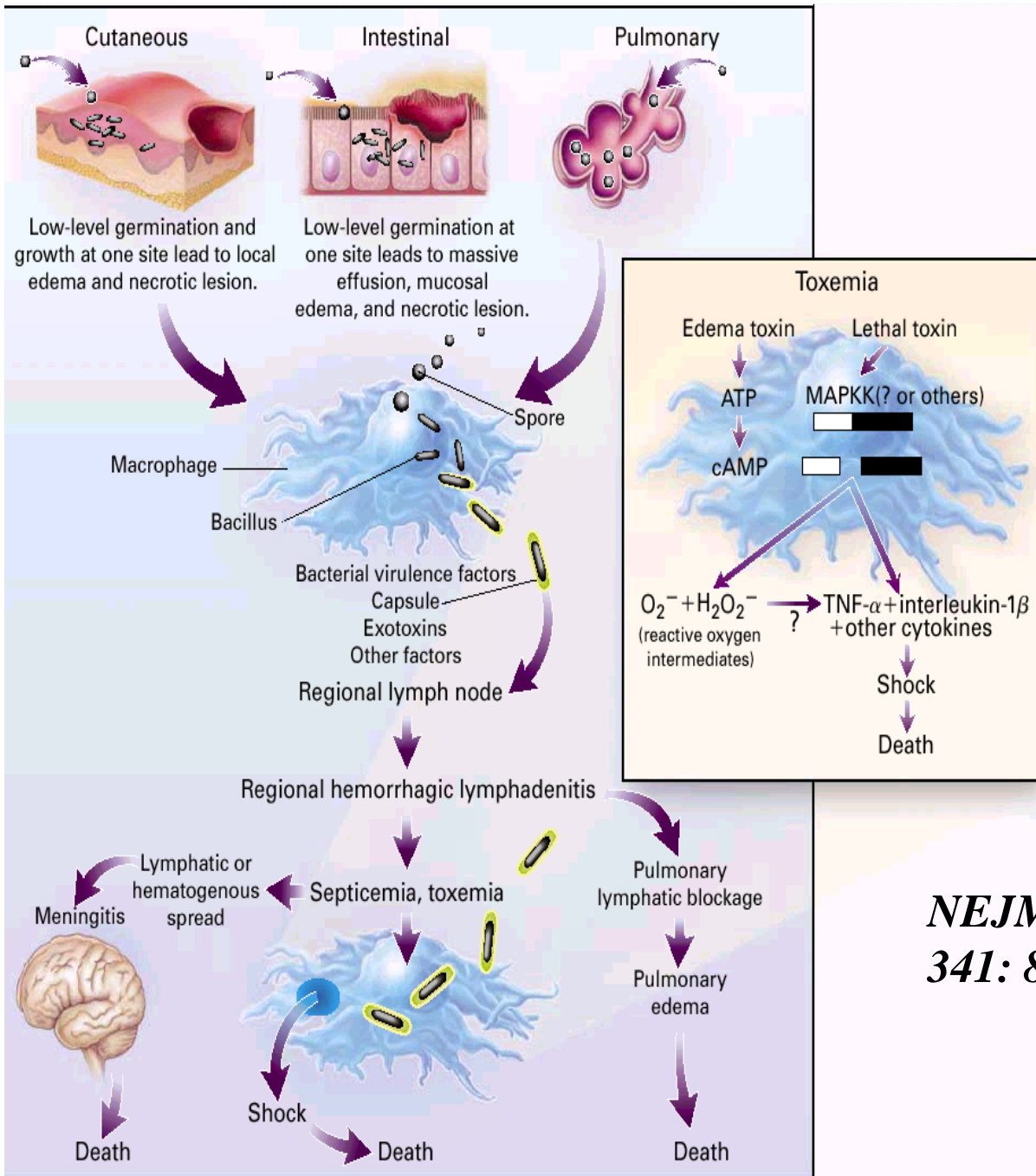
1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2. Department of Defense
3. State Health
4. Local Police Department

QUESTION: Which of the following is true?

1. Can work up the organism in the clinical laboratory
2. Caretakers should take respiratory precautions
3. If the patient dies we should not do an autopsy
4. An epidemiological investigation is not necessary

# List of biological agents considered bioterrorism threats:

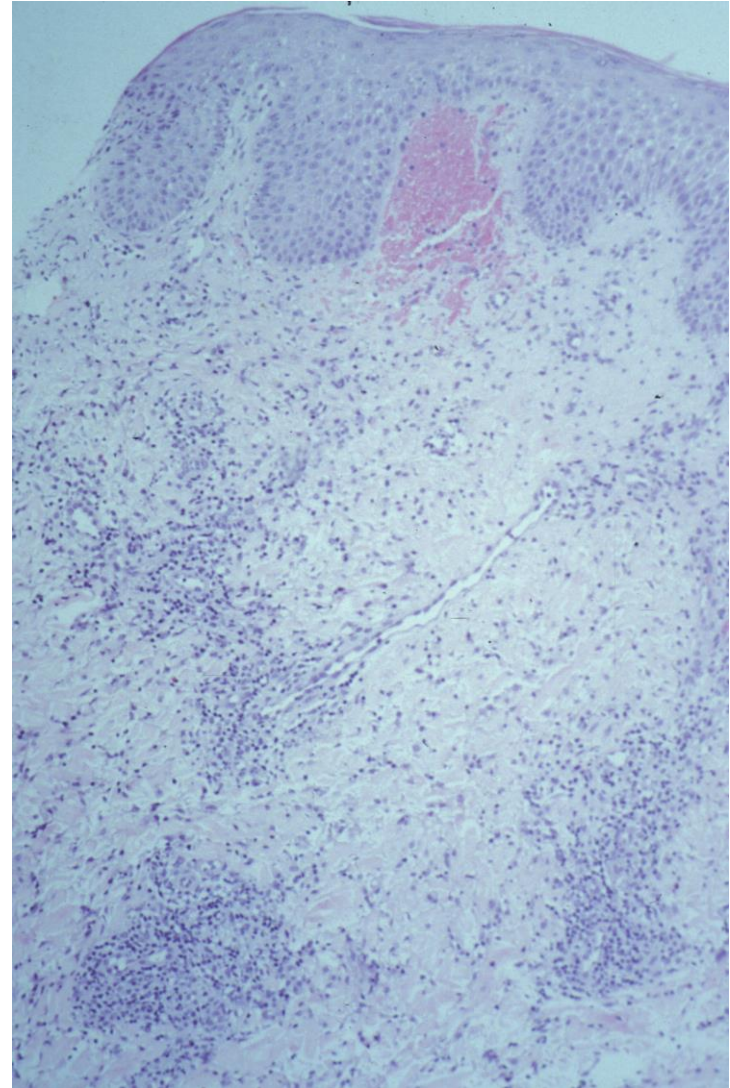
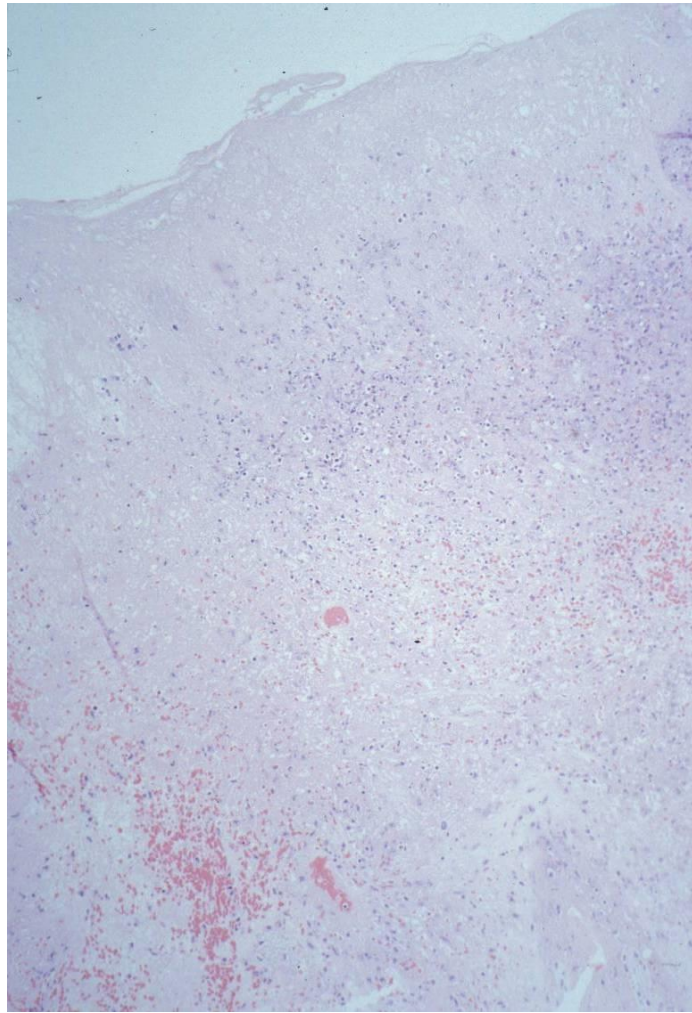
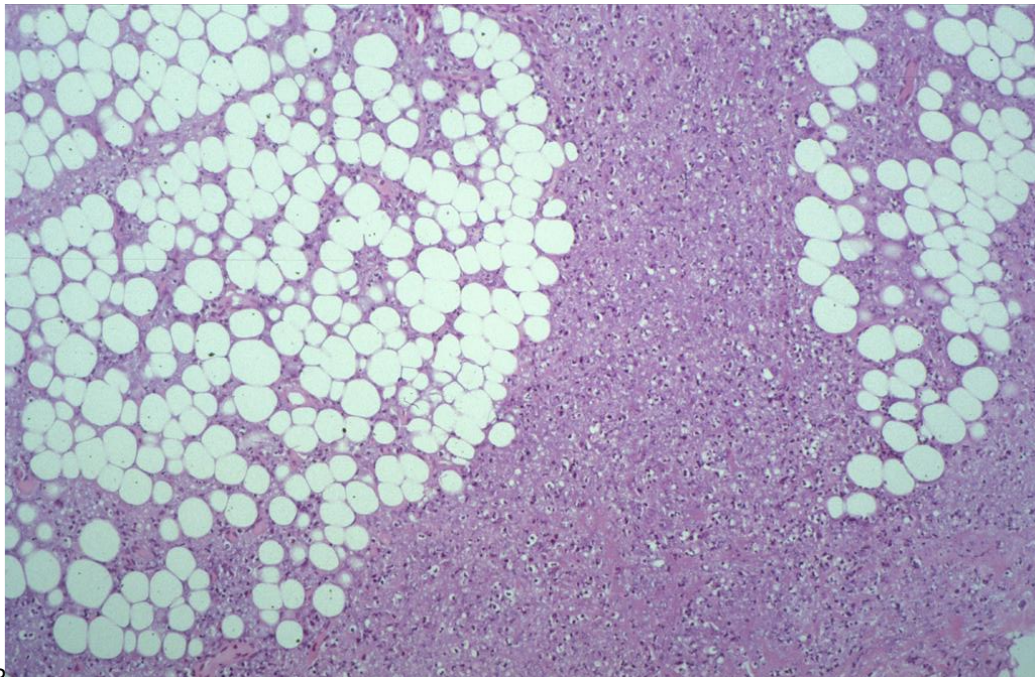
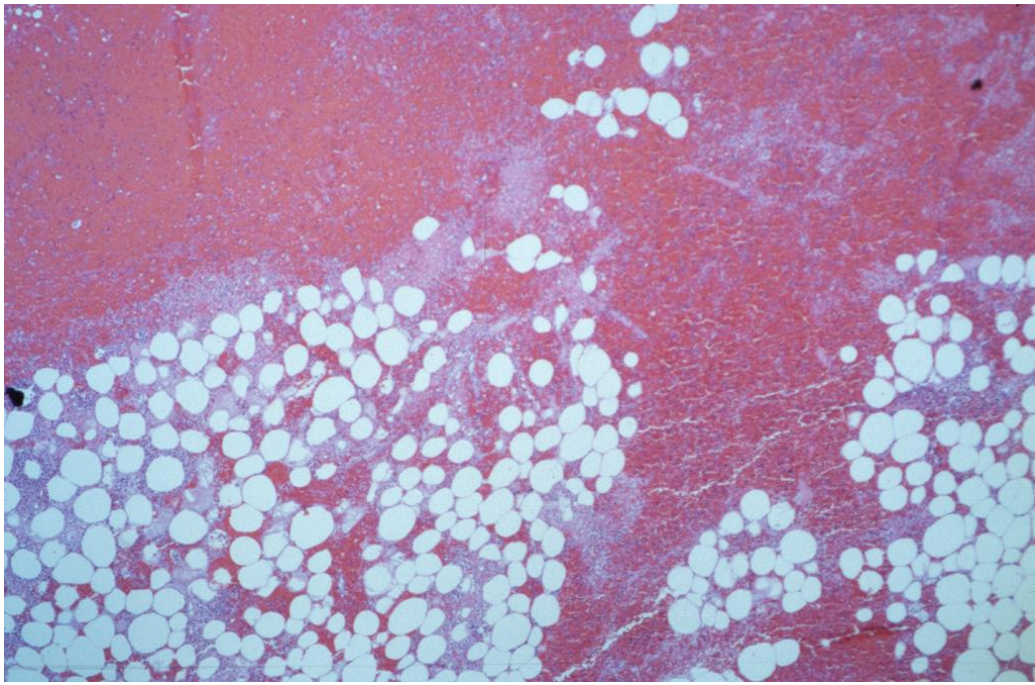
- Category A agents
  - bacteria (*Bacillus anthracis*, *Yersinia pestis*, and *Francisella tularensis*),
  - bacterial toxins (*Clostridium botulinum*),
  - viruses (Smallpox and organisms that can cause hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Junin).



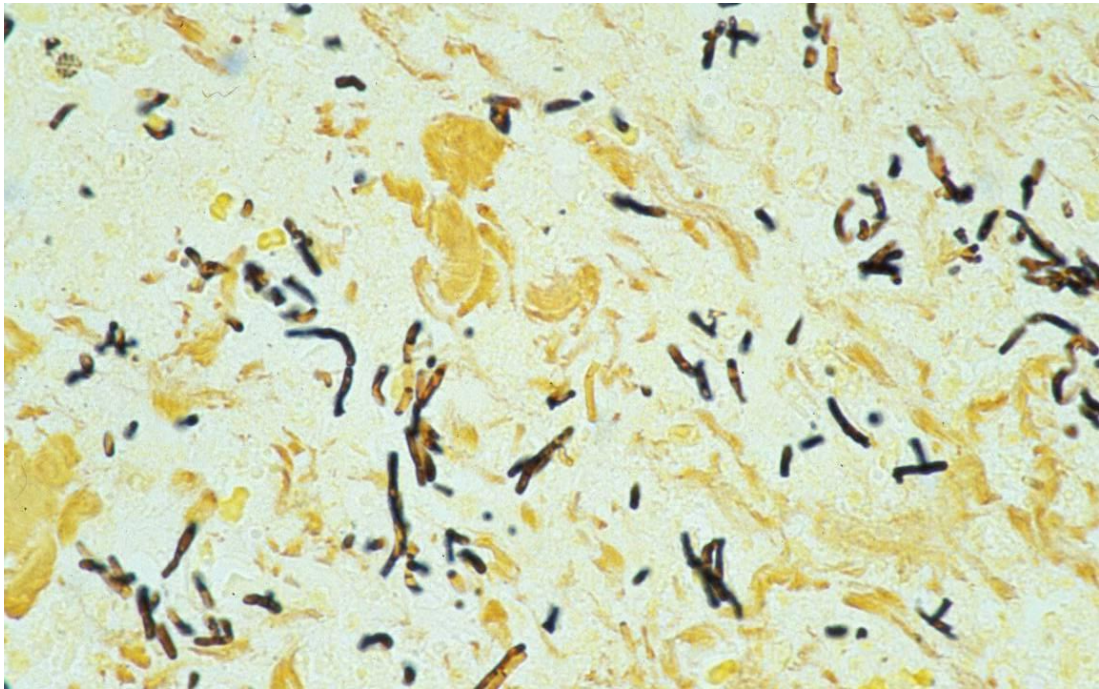
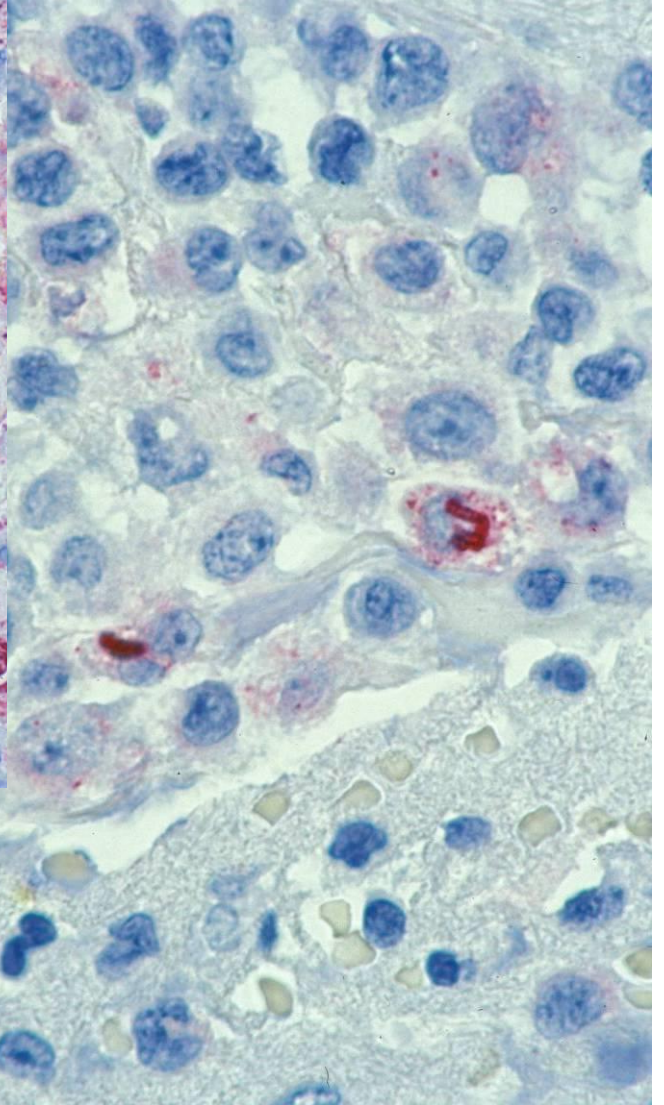
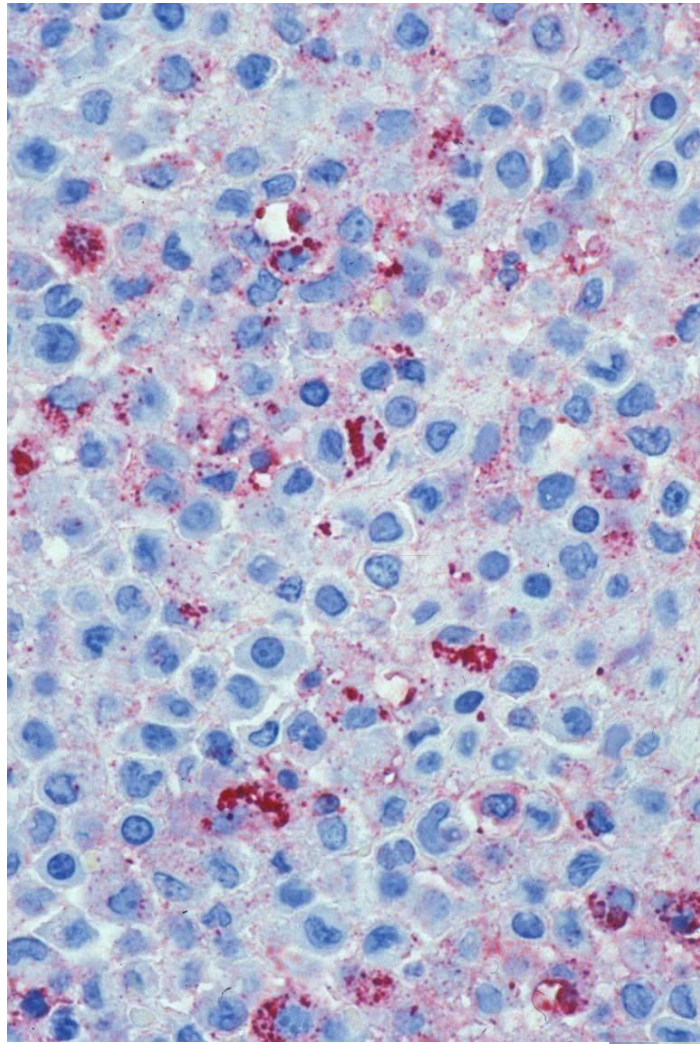
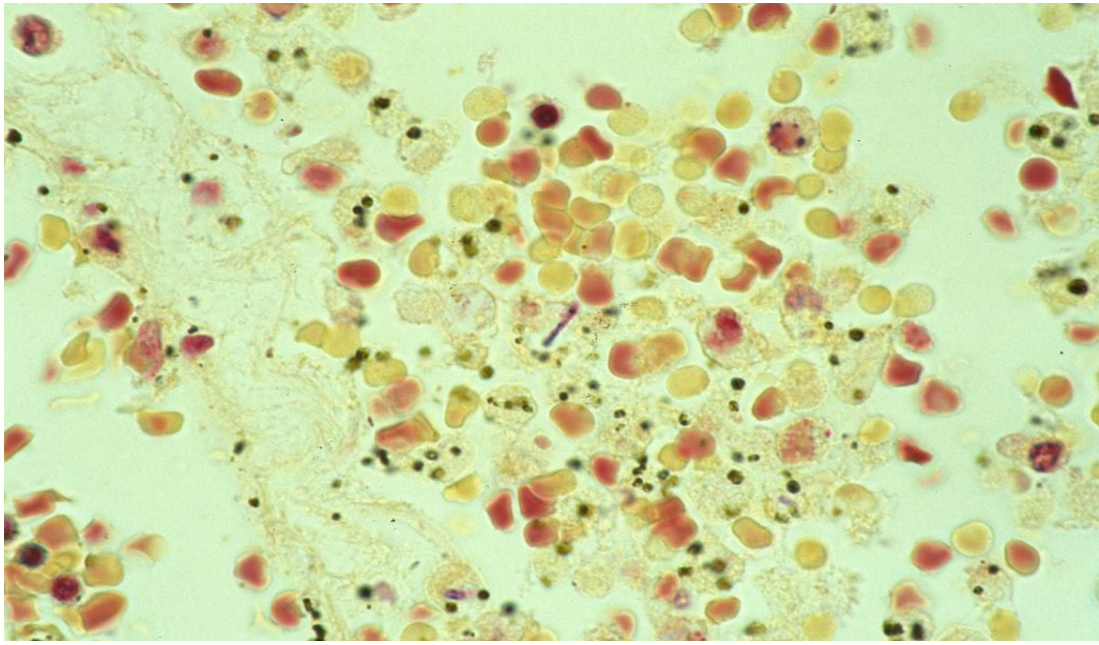
*NEJM 1999;  
341: 815- 826*



Abramova FA et al.  
Proc Natl Acad  
Sci. 1993;  
90:2291



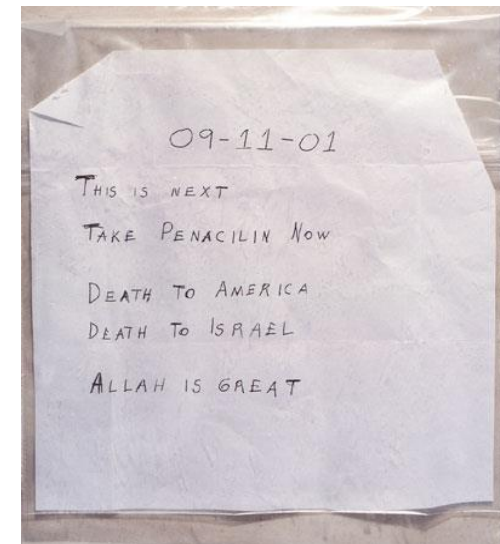
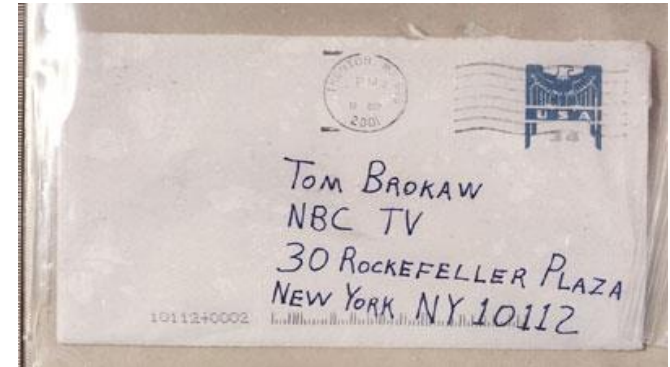




# QUESTION: How do you think our patient got infected?

1. Travel to Africa
2. Drumming on hides
3. Sorting wool
4. Picking rags

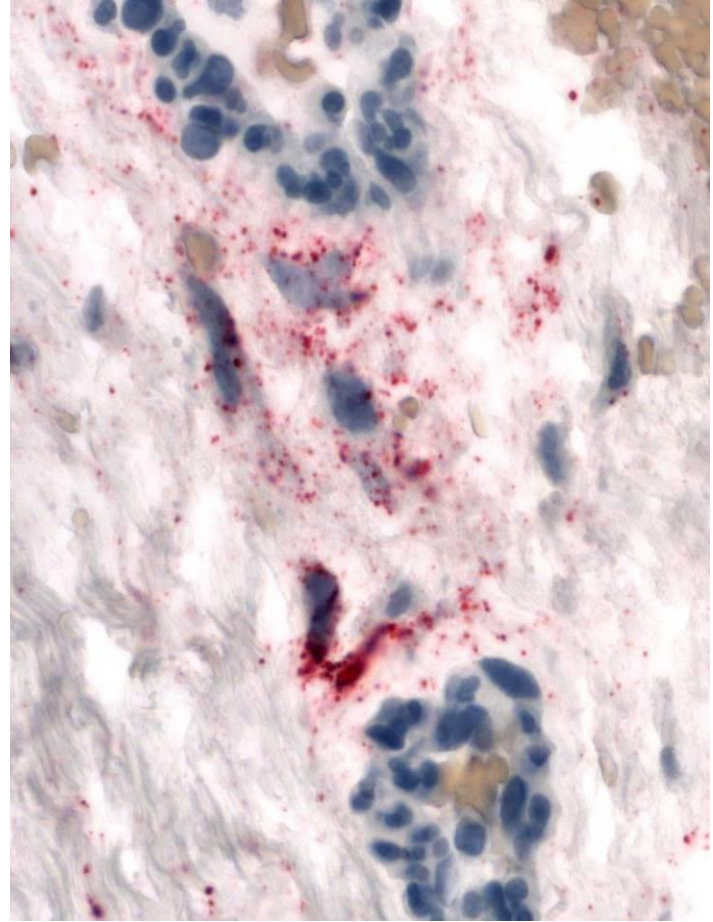
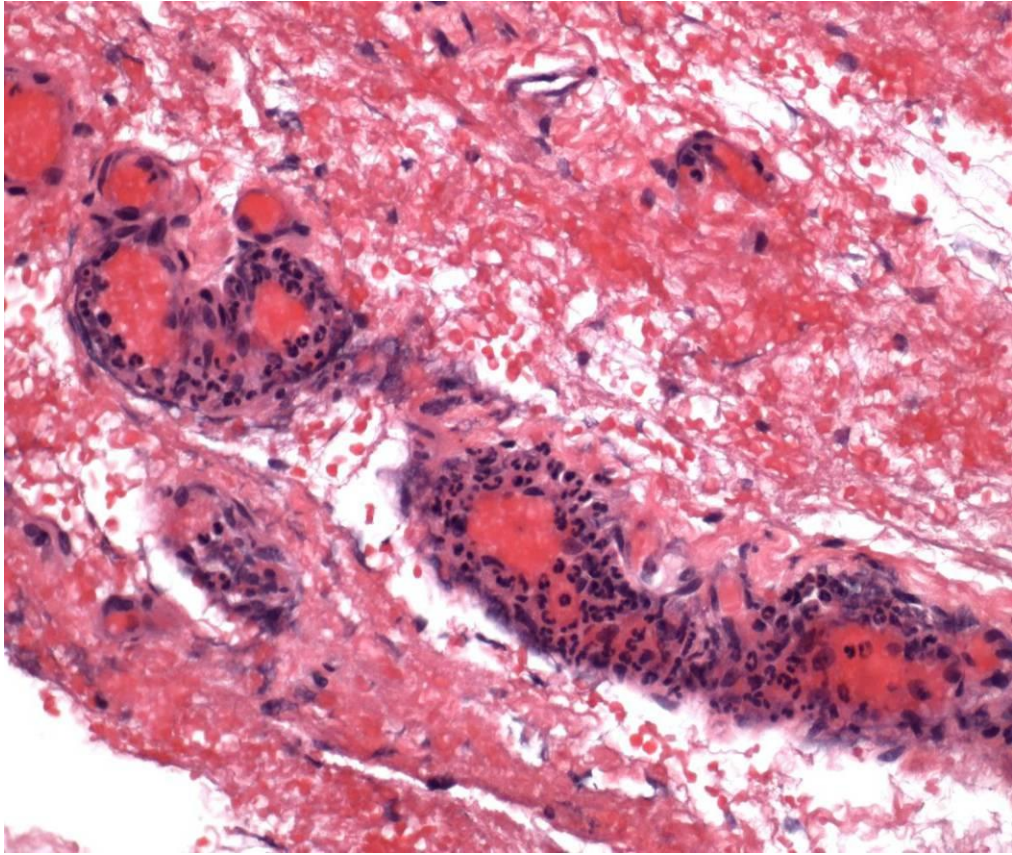
Letters in the  
bioterrorism  
attack of 2001



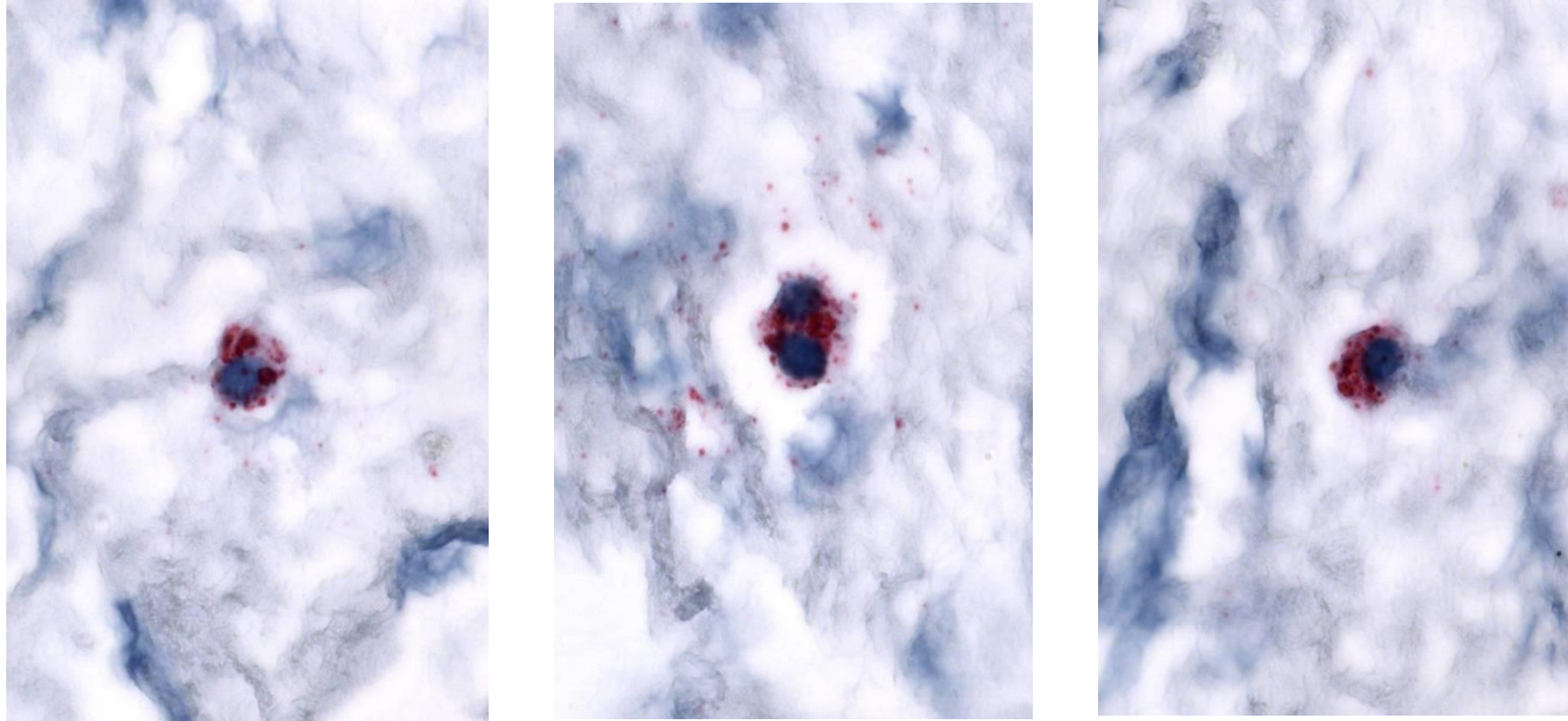
09-11-01  
THIS IS NEXT  
TAKE PENACILIN NOW  
DEATH TO AMERICA  
DEATH TO ISRAEL  
ALLAH IS GREAT

# Case continues

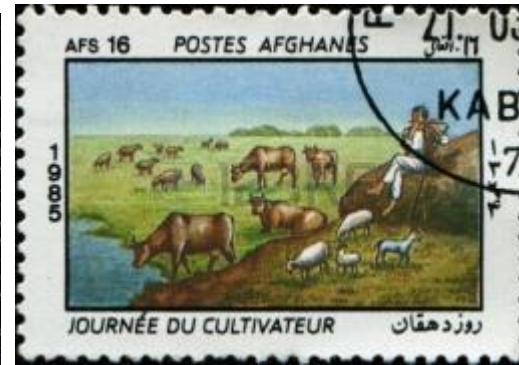
- Change in antibiotic regimen to moxifloxacin, clindamycin, and ampicillin.
- Pleural effusions kept up happening even 10 days after initiation of treatment.
- Patient was discharged from the hospital 35 days after admission.



Presence of anthrax antigens in pleural effusions 10 days after antibiotic treatment had been started



Walsh JJ, et al. A case of naturally acquired inhalation anthrax: clinical care and analyses of anti-protective antigen immunoglobulin G and lethal factor. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2007;44:968-71.



# Case 3

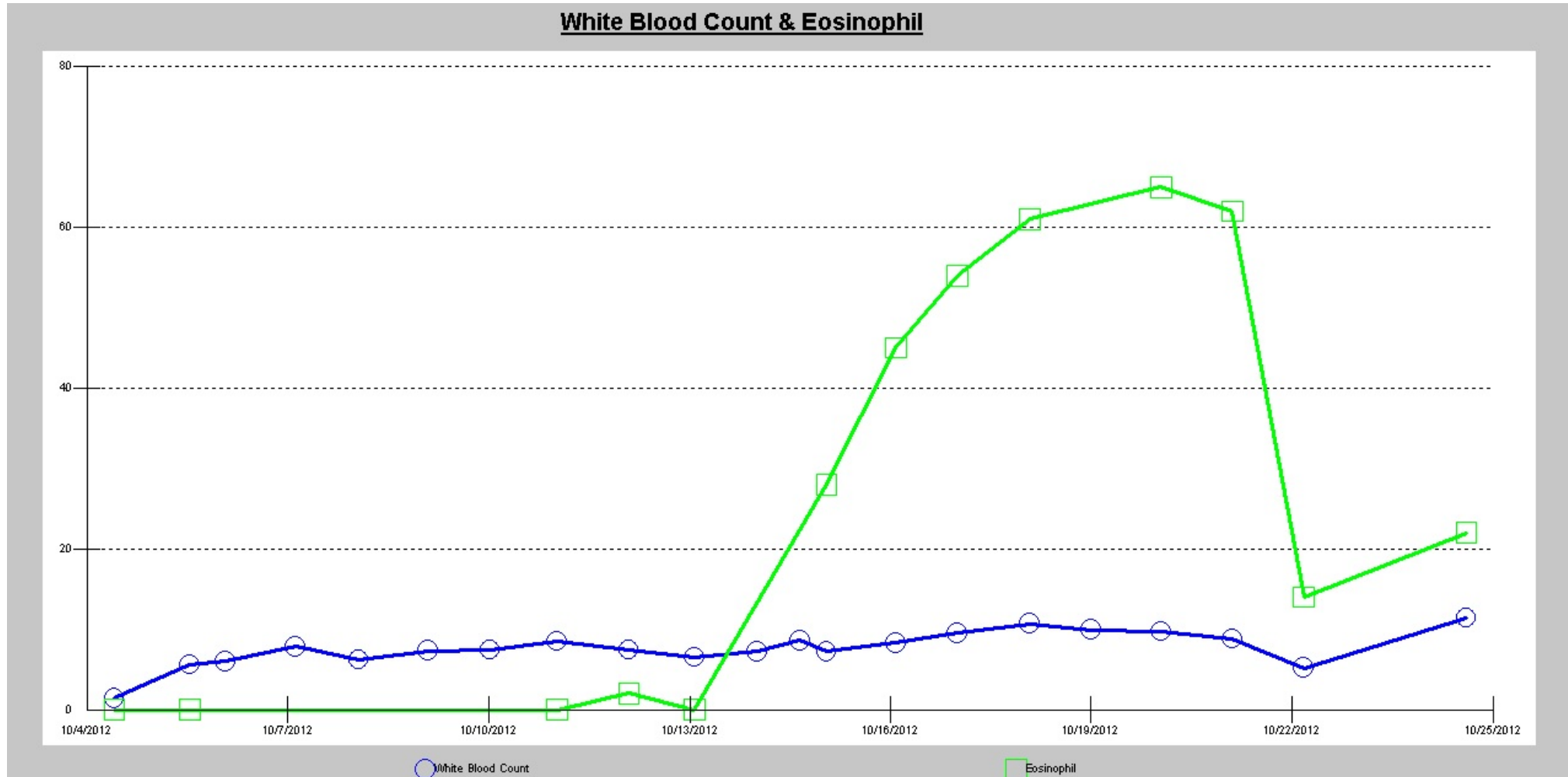
- 39 year old male presents with fever, abdominal pain, and diffuse bone pain
- He had CML diagnosed 7 years ago but developed blast crisis four months prior to presentation
- Blast crisis, treated with dasatinib and H-CVAD
- Blood cultures grew *Escherichia coli* and coagulase negative Staph treated with vancomycin and meropenem
- He is found to have pulmonary nodules empirically treated with voriconazole
- Fevers persist

# Case continues

- Family: no contributory history
- Social: from El Salvador but has been in Atlanta for 20 years.
  - Last travel to El Salvador three years ago
- Worked as a painter until illness
  
- Physical exam: Temp 38.3°C
- Abdomen: diffuse, mild tenderness



# Laboratory Examination



Causes of eosinophilia in a patient such as this, include:

- Drug associated
- Allergic
- Parasites
- Fungi
- Viruses

QUESTION: What parasites are observed in one O&P stool specimen stained with trichrome?

1. *Entamoeba* sp.

2. *Strongyloides stercoralis*

3. Cyclospora

QUESTION: If you are thinking this could be *Strongyloides*, what test would have the highest yield?

1. Multiplex PCR in stool
2. Serology for *Strongyloides*
3. Microscopy of duodenal aspirate

Zhang H, et al. Multiplex polymerase chain reaction tests for detection of pathogens associated with gastroenteritis. *Clin Lab Med.* 2015;35(2):461

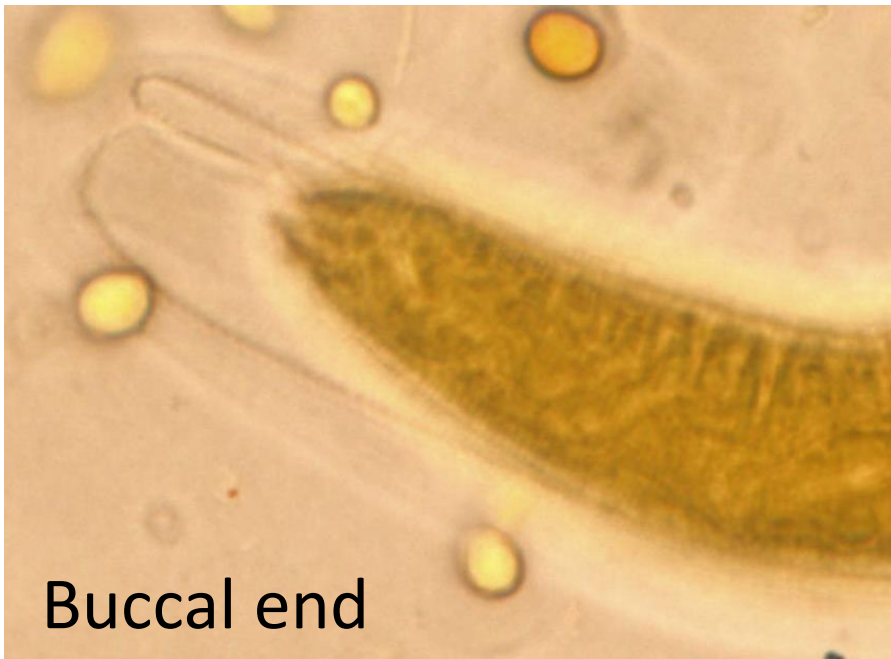
| Manufacture/Assay   | <i>Aeromonas</i> | <i>Campylobacter</i> | <i>Clostridium difficile</i> | <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> | Enteraggregative <i>E. coli</i> (EAEC) | Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i> (EPEC) | Enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> (ETEC) <i>lt/st</i> | Shiga toxin <i>E. coli</i> (STEC) <i>stx1/stx2</i> | <i>E. coli</i> O157 | <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> | <i>Plesiomonas shigelloides</i> | <i>Salmonella</i> | <i>Shigella</i> | <i>Vibrio</i> | <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> | <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> | Adenovirus F40/41 | Astrovirus | Enterovirus | Norovirus GI/GII | Rotavirus A | Sapovirus | <i>Cryptosporidium</i> | <i>Blastocystis hominis</i> | <i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i> | <i>Cyclospora cayentanensis</i> | <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> | <i>Giardia lamblia</i> |
|---|------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Luminex - xTAG GPP  |                  | ✓                    | ✓                            |                                |  |  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓                   |                               |                                 | ✓                 | ✓               |               | ✓                      | ✓*                             | ✓                 |            |             | ✓                | ✓           |           | ✓                      |                             |                             |                                 | ✓                            | ✓                      |
| BioFire – FilmArray GI  | ✓*               | ✓                    | ✓                            |                                | ✓                                      | ✓                                      | ✓  | ✓  | ✓                   |                               | ✓                               | ✓                 | ✓               | ✓             | ✓                      | ✓                              | ✓                 | ✓          |             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓         | ✓                      |                             |                             | ✓                               | ✓                            | ✓                      |
| BD MAX - Enteric bacterial (B), Virus* (V), Parasite* (P)   |                  | ✓<br>B               |                              |                                |  |  |  | ✓<br>B   |                     |                               |                                 | ✓<br>B            | ✓<br>B          |               |                        |                                |                   |            |             | ✓<br>V           | ✓<br>V      |           | ✓<br>P                 |                             |                             |                                 | ✓<br>P                       | ✓<br>P                 |
| Nanosphere - Verigene Enteric Pathogen  |                  | ✓                    |                              |                                |  |  | ✓  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓                 | ✓               | ✓             |                        | ✓                              |                   |            |             | ✓                | ✓           |           |                        |                             |                             |                                 |                              |                        |
| Hologic (Gen-Probe) - ProGastro SCS   |                  | ✓                    |                              |                                |  |  | ✓  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓                 | ✓               |               |                        |                                |                   |            |             |                  |             |           |                        |                             |                             |                                 |                              |                        |
| PathoFinder - Gastrofinder Smart 17 Fast  | ✓                | ✓                    | ✓                            |                                |  |  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓                   |                               |                                 | ✓                 | ✓               |               |                        | ✓                              | ✓                 |            |             | ✓                | ✓           |           | ✓                      |                             | ✓                           |                                 | ✓                            | ✓                      |
| r-Biopharm - Rida Gene - Hospital stool (HS), Bacterial Stool (BS) Viral Stool (VS), Parasitic Stool (PS) |                  | ✓<br>B               | ✓<br>HS                      |                                |  |  |  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓<br>B            |                 |               |                        | ✓<br>B                         | ✓<br>V2           | ✓<br>V2    |             | ✓<br>V2          | ✓<br>V2     |           | ✓<br>P                 |                             | ✓<br>P                      |                                 | ✓<br>P                       | ✓<br>P                 |
| Seegene - SeeplexDiarrhea ACE - Viral (V), Bacterial 1 (Ba) and 2 (Bb)                                    | ✓<br>Bb          | ✓<br>Ba              | ✓<br>Ba                      | ✓<br>Bb                        |  |  | ✓<br>Bb  | ✓<br>Bb  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓<br>Ba           | ✓<br>Ba         | ✓<br>Ba       |                        | ✓<br>Ba                        | ✓<br>V            | ✓<br>V     |             | ✓<br>V           | ✓<br>V      |           |                        |                             |                             |                                 |                              |                        |
| Serosep - EntericBio Gastro Panel 1 (P1) and 2 (P2)   |                  | ✓                    |                              |                                |  |  | ✓  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓                 | ✓               |               |                        |                                |                   |            |             |                  |             |           | ✓                      |                             |                             |                                 |                              | ✓                      |
| Fast-Track Diagnostics - FTD Stool Parasites (P), EPA, Bacterial (B), Viral (V)                           |                  | ✓<br>B2              | ✓<br>B2                      |                                |  |  | ✓<br>B2  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓<br>B2           | ✓<br>B2         |               |                        | ✓<br>B2                        | ✓<br>V3           | ✓<br>V3    |             | ✓<br>V3          | ✓<br>V3     | ✓<br>V3   | ✓<br>P                 |                             |                             |                                 | ✓<br>P                       | ✓<br>P                 |
| Diagenode- G-DiaBact (B), G-DiaNota (V), G-Diapara (P)  |                  | ✓<br>B               |                              |                                |  |  |  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓<br>B            |                 |               |                        |                                |                   |            |             |                  |             |           | ✓<br>P                 |                             |                             |                                 | ✓<br>P                       | ✓<br>P                 |
| Genetic Signatures - EasyScreen Enteric Bacteria (B), Viral (V), Protozoan (P)                            | ✓<br>P3          | ✓<br>P3              | ✓<br>P3                      |                                |  |  | ✓<br>P3  |  | ✓<br>P3             |                               |                                 | ✓<br>P3           | ✓<br>P3         | ✓<br>P3       |                        | ✓<br>P3                        | ✓<br>V3           | ✓<br>V3    | ✓<br>V3     | ✓<br>V3          | ✓<br>V3     |           | ✓<br>P2                | ✓<br>P2                     | ✓<br>P2                     |                                 | ✓<br>P2                      | ✓<br>P2                |
| AusDiagnostics - Faecal Bacteria (B), GI Parasites (P)  |                  | ✓<br>B               | ✓<br>B                       |                                |  |  |  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓<br>B            | ✓<br>B          |               |                        |                                |                   |            |             |                  |             |           | ✓<br>P                 |                             | ✓<br>P                      |                                 | ✓<br>P                       | ✓<br>P                 |
| Genomica – CLART EnteroBac  | ✓                | ✓                    | ✓                            |                                | ← undifferentiated →                   |  |  |  |                     |                               |                                 | ✓                 | ✓               |               | ✓                      |                                |                   |            |             |                  |             |           |                        |                             |                             |                                 |                              |                        |

QUESTION: Which lab should the specimen go to?

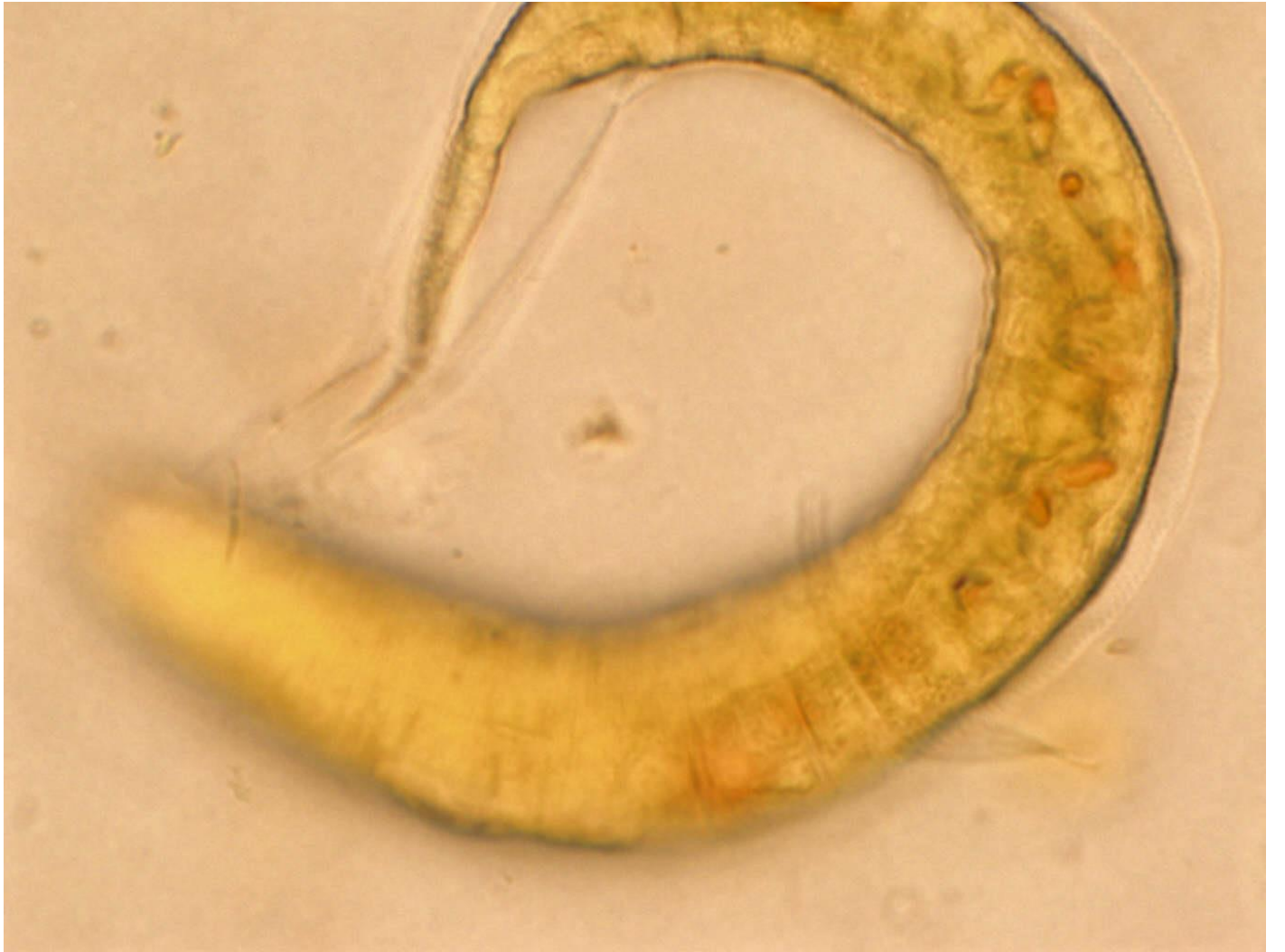
1. Cytology
2. Microbiology

# Duodenal aspiration





Buccal end





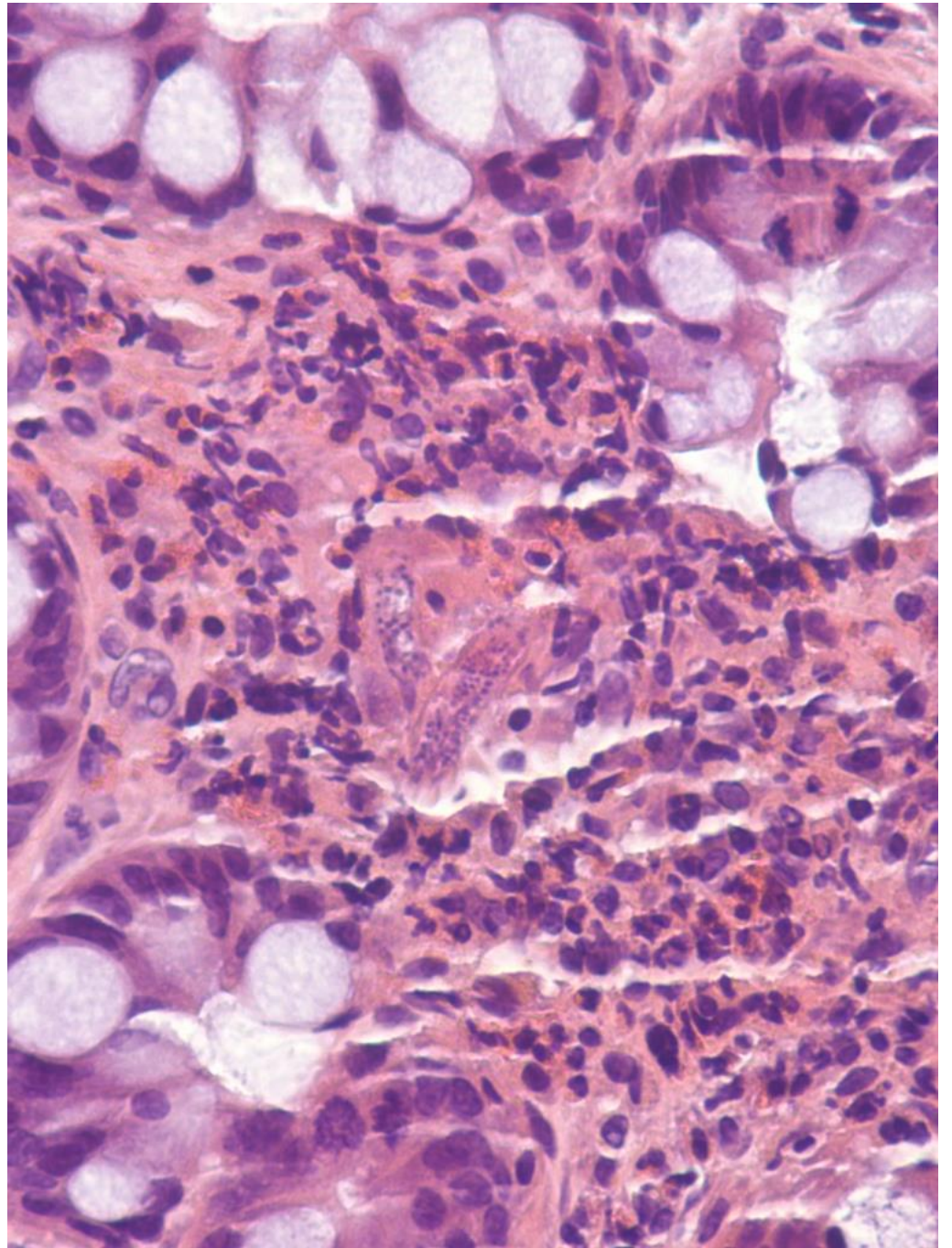
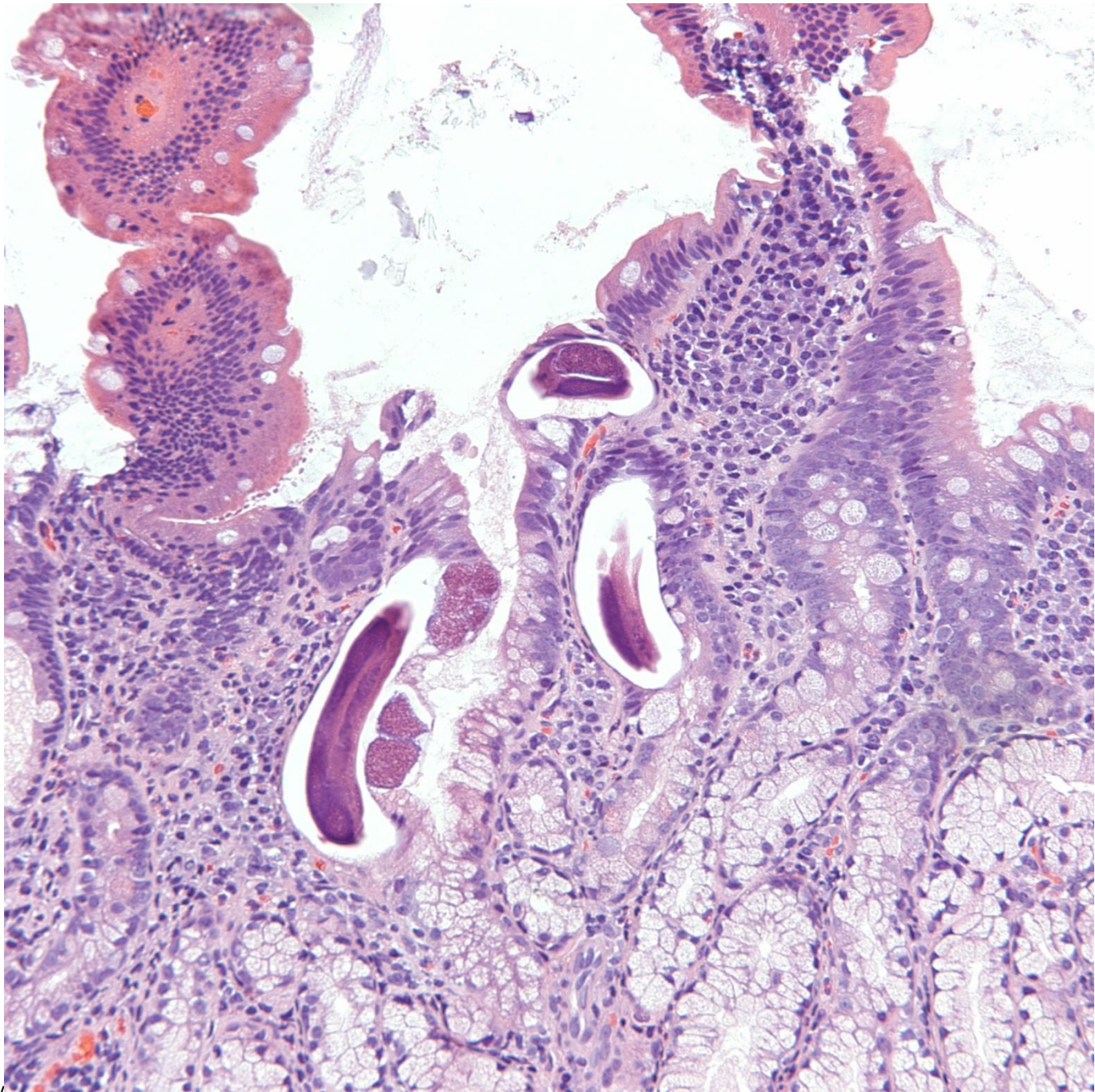
# My experience working at INCAN

- Approximately 28% of the Mexican population has intestinal parasites.
- Oncologic patients receiving chemotherapy have 3 (serial) coproparasitoscopic studies to avoid disseminated parasitic infections.
- All patients were asked to give us 3 stool samples.

# Study at INCan

- Evaluated in 100 diarrheic (DS) and 100 formed stools (FS) from distinct adult patients recently diagnosed with cancer.
- 26% patients with DS and 15% with FS had one or more parasites: *Entamoeba histolytica* was found in 12 DS and in 2 FS ( $p = 0.01$ ), *Giardia lamblia* in 3 DS and 6 FS and *Hymenolepis nana* in 8 DS and 10 FS. Other pathogenic parasites were found only in DS: *Cryptosporidium* sp. in 5, *Ascaris lumbricoides* in 2 *Strongyloides stercoralis* in 2 and *Isospora* sp. in one.
- *Cryptosporidium* and *Isospora* were only identified by wet mounts stained with Kinyoun.

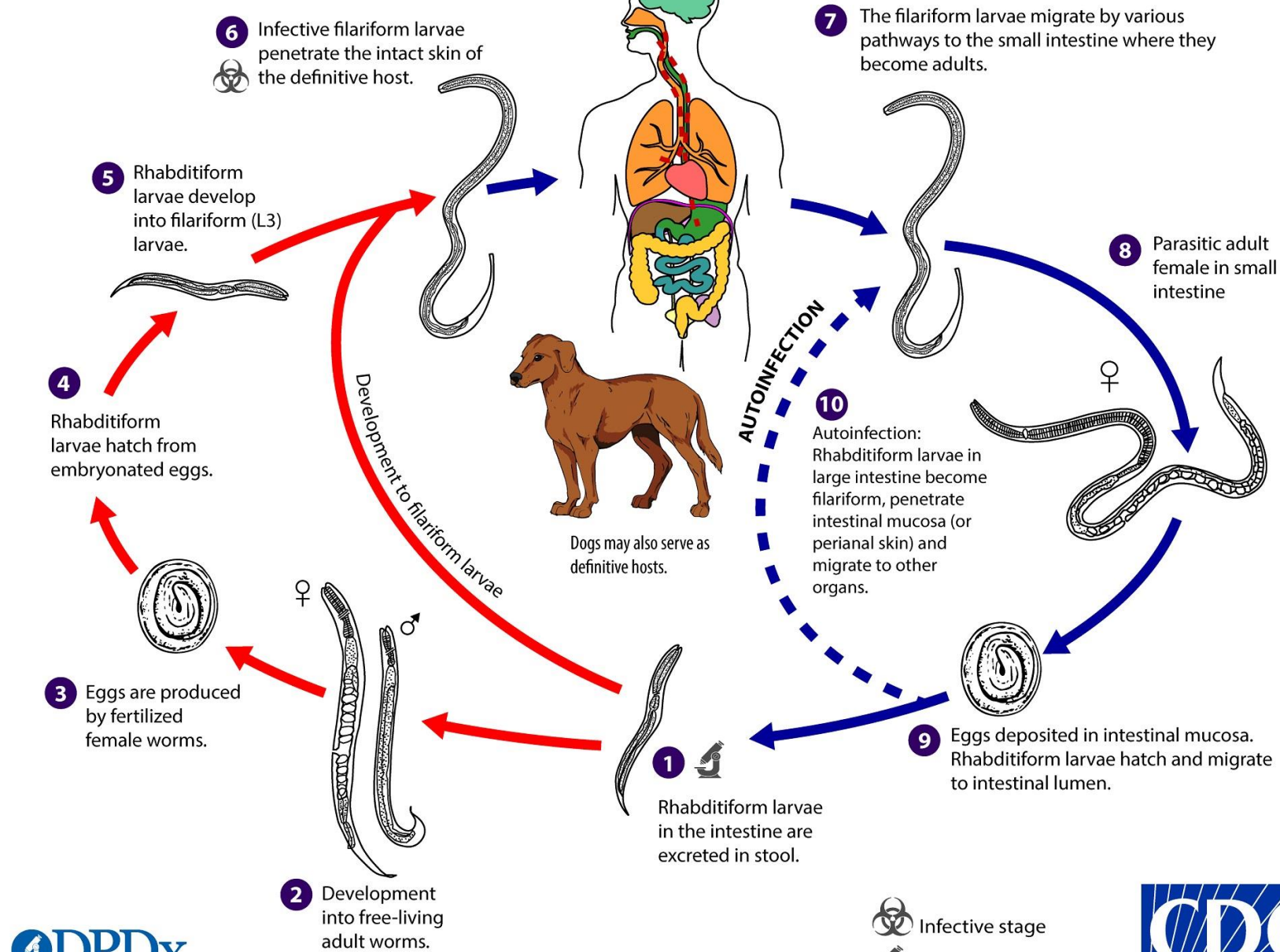
Guarner J, et al. Frequency of intestinal parasites in adult cancer patients in Mexico. Arch Med Res. 1997;28:219-22.



# Strongyloides stercoralis

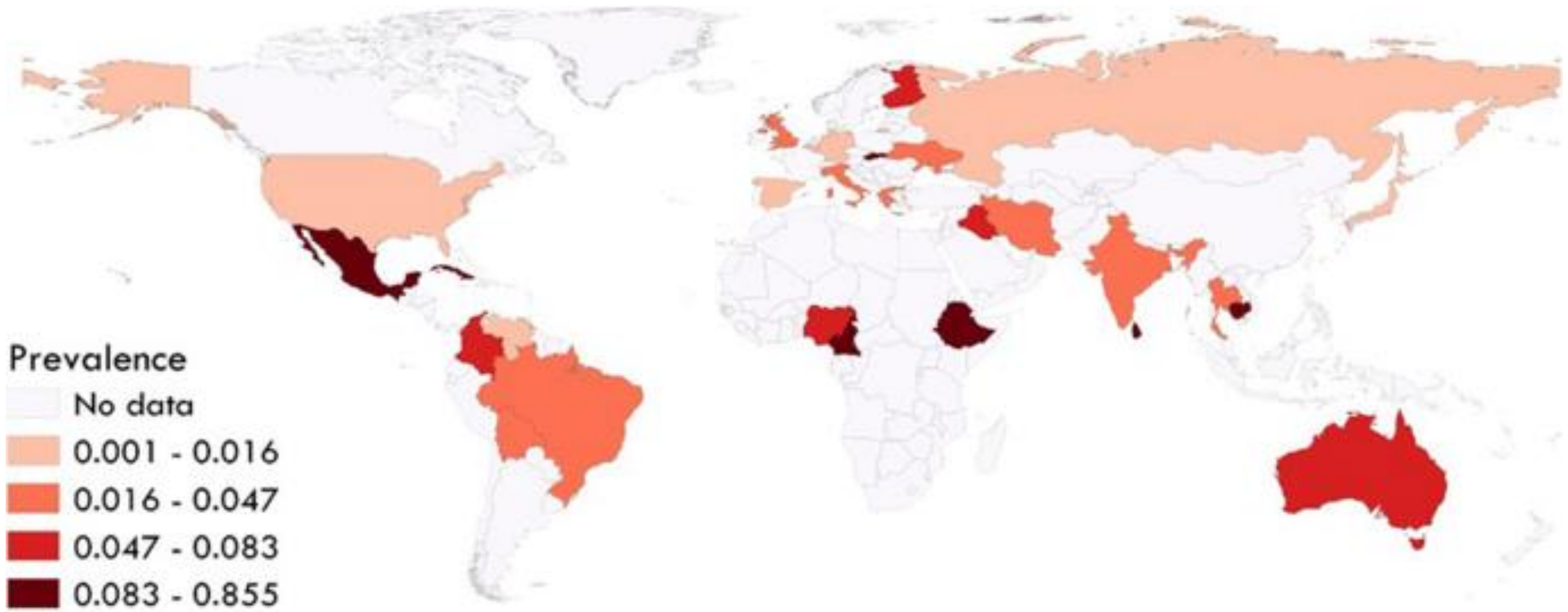
## Free-Living Cycle

## Parasitic Cycle



# Hyperinfection syndrome and disseminated strongyloidiasis

- Seen in patients receiving high-dose corticosteroids that have subclinical infection.
- Impaired host immunity leads to accelerated autoinfection and an overwhelming number of migrating larvae.
- In chronic strongyloidiasis and hyperinfection syndrome, the larvae are limited to the GI tract and the lungs, whereas in disseminated strongyloidiasis the larvae invade numerous organs.
- If untreated, the mortality rates can approach 90%.



***Strongyloides stercoralis* in dogs**

Eslahi, AV, *et al.* Global prevalence and epidemiology of *Strongyloides stercoralis* in dogs: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Parasites Vectors* **15**, 21 (2022).



Since the end of December, 2019 to today:

## **Three Emerging Coronaviruses in Two Decades**

The Story of SARS, MERS, and Now COVID-19

Jeannette Guarner, MD<sup>o</sup>

*Am J Clin Pathol* 2020;153:420-421

DOI: 10.1093/ajcp/aqaa029

## **Monkeypox in 2022**

### **A New Outbreak of an Old Disease**

Jeannette Guarner, MD<sup>o</sup>

From the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA.

AJCP | EDITORIAL

#### **KEY WORDS**

Monkeypox; Testing; Pathology

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*Am J Clin Pathol* August

2022;158:160-161

[HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1093/AJCP/AQAC091](https://doi.org/10.1093/AJCP/AQAC091)



# Final thoughts

- People travel or have lived in another location and can bring with them a microorganism
- Organisms can travel in animals (live or dead), fomites and other.
- Knowing what is prevalent in different parts of the world informs diagnostic tests and samples to be used.

