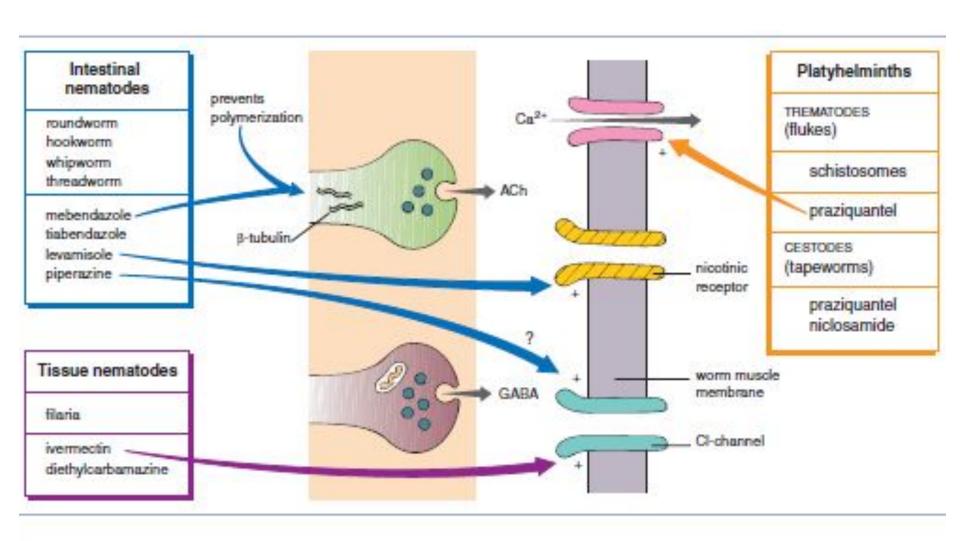
# ANTIHELMINTHIC AND ANTIPROTOZOAL DRUGS





- Antihelmintics are drugs that either kill (vermicide) or expel (vermifuge) infesting helminths.
- Nematodes, trematodes, and cestodes are three major groups of helminthes (worms) that infect humans.
- Nematodes are elongated roundworms that possess a complete digestive system. They cause infections of the intestine as well as the blood and tissues.
- We use: mebendazole, albendazole, pyrantel, levamisol, piperazine.



## Mebendazole

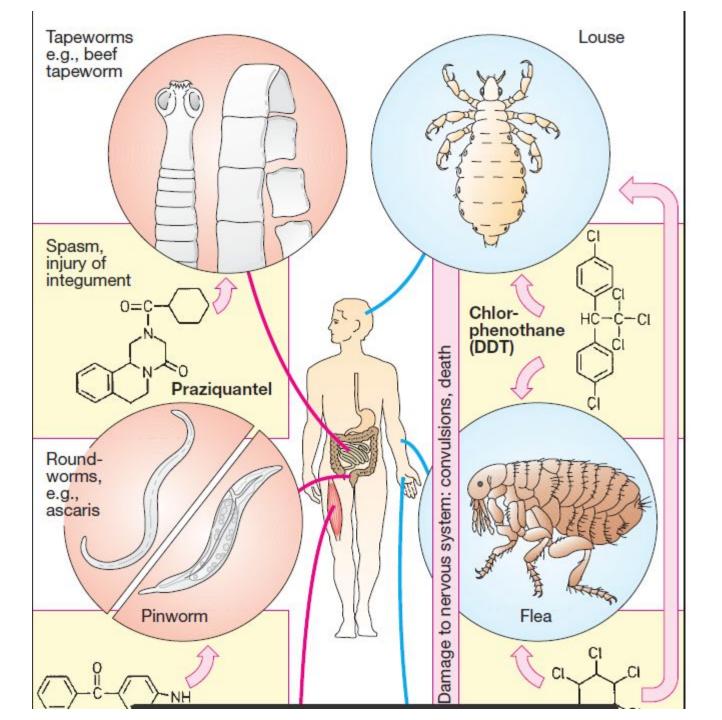
- Uses: whipworms (Trichuris trichiura), pinworms (Enterobius vermicularis), hookworms (Necator americanus and Ancylostoma duodenale), and roundworms (Ascaris lumbricoides);
  - in high doses: extraintestinal helminthiasis (trichinellosis and echinococcosis)
- It inhibits the assembly of the microtubules and glucose utilization in helminthes and paralyses them. It kills ova and larvae of Ascaris.
- Absorption from intestines 10-15%
- Adverse effects: abdominal pain, diarrhea, headache, allergic reactions

### **Albendazole**

- ❖ Uses: ascariasis, hookworms and enterobiasis (a single dose), toxocariasis, filariasis, cysticercosis, echinococcosis (long-term therapy).
- ❖ It is absorbed from GIT, metabolized in the liver.
- Adverse effects: headache, diarrhea, dizziness, leucopenia, skin rashes, abdominal pain, vomiting.

## Levamisole

- ☐ Uses: a single dose ascariasis, less effective ankylostomiasis, strongyloidiasis, filariasis.
- ☐ Mechanism: stimulation of ganglia, drug-induced paralysis of helminthes due to depolarization of their muscles, inhibition of fumarate reductase and metabolism.
- ☐ Adverse effects: abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea

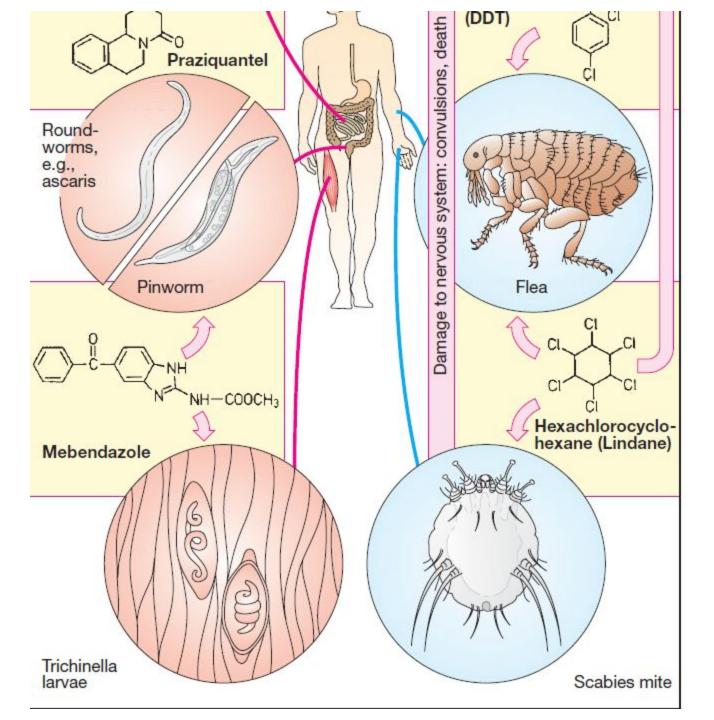


- **Pyrantel** is active against Ascaris, Enterobius, Ancylostoma, Necator, Strongyloides
- Mechanism: activation of nicotinic cholinergic receptors in the worms → persistent depolarization → slowly developing contracture and spastic paralysis.
- Absorption from GIT -10-15%.
- Adverse effects: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, headache and dizziness

- ☐ Diethylcarbamazine citrate is microfilaricidal. It has a highly selective effect on microfilariae and against adult worms.
- ☐ It is rapidly absorbed following oral administration with meals and is excreted mainly in the urine.
- ☐ Adverse effects may include fever, nausea, vomiting, arthralgia, and headache.

## **Niclosamide**

- Uses: Taenia saginata, Diphyllobothrium latum and Hymenolepis nana.
- It inhibits the mitochondrial phosphorylation of adenosine diphosphate (ADP). Anaerobic metabolism may also be inhibited.
- In cases of *T. solium*, digestion of the dead segments can be hazardous, because the ova released from them may develop into larvae in the intestine, penetrate its wall and cause visceral cysticercosis.
- It is minimally absorbed from GIT.
- Adverse effects: dyspepsia, allergic reactions.

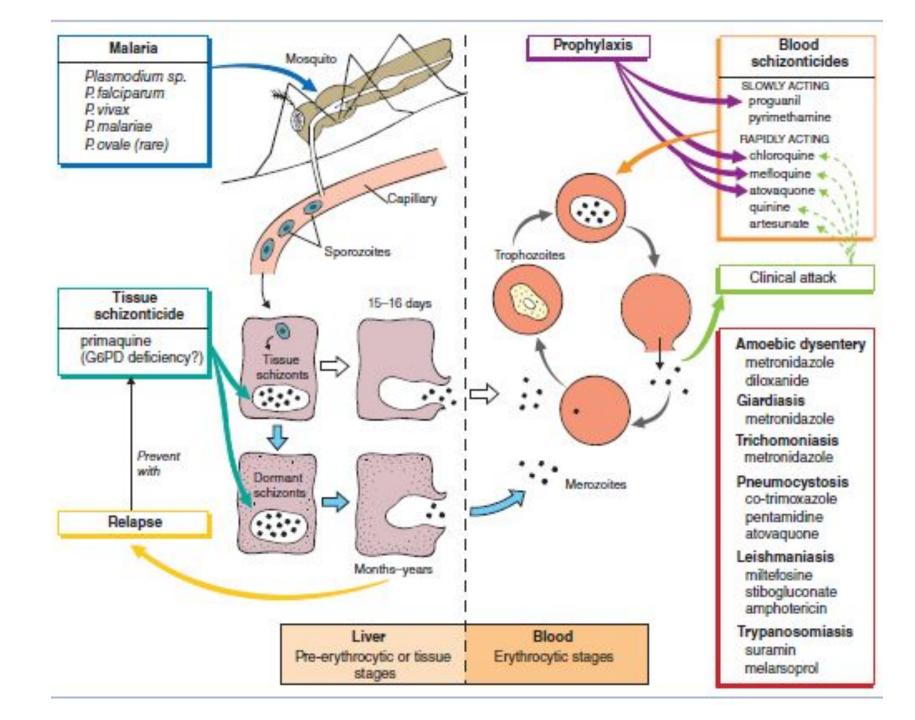


# **Praziquantel**

- Uses: all forms of schistosomiasis, other trematode infections, cestode infections such as taeniasis, cysticercosis (caused by Taenia solium larvae)
- Mechanism: leakage of intracellular calcium from the membranes → contracture and paralysis.
- It is rapidly absorbed after oral administration and distributes into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). It is extensively metabolized, and the inactive metabolites are excreted primarily in the urine.
- Adverse effects: dizziness, malaise, headache

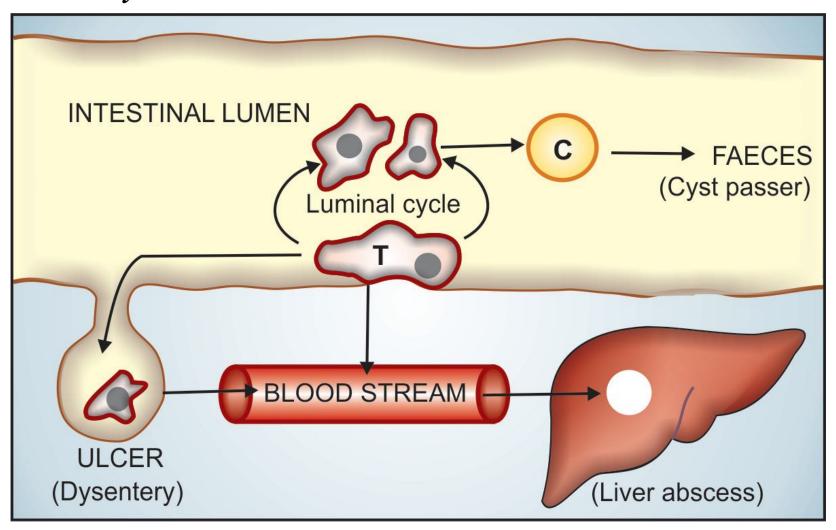
Antiprotozoal drugs are used for the treatment and prophylaxis of:

- Malaria
- Amebiasis
- ☐ Giardiasis (Metronidazole, furazolidone)
- ☐ Trixomoniasis (Metronidazole, furazolidone, Diiodohydroxyquin rect.)



☐ Toxoplasmosis (pyrimethamine, sulfadimidine) ☐ Balantidiasis (tetracyclines, monomycin, quiniofone) ☐ Leishmaniasis (solusurmine, stibogluconate, amphotericin B, paromomycin) ☐ Trypanosomiasis (melarsoprol, primaquine, suramin)

Antiamoebic drugs - drugs useful in infection caused by the anaerobic protozoa *Entamoeba histolytica*.



## **CLASSIFICATION**

# 1. Tissue amoebicides

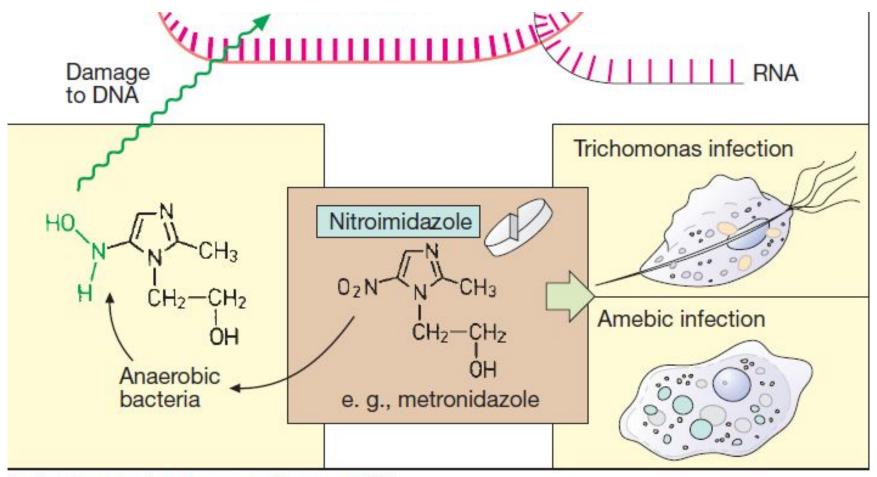
For both intestinal and extraintestinal amoebiasis:

Nitroimidazoles: Metronidazole, Tinidazole, Ornidazole

For extraintestinal amoebiasis only: Chloroquine

2. Luminal amoebicides: Tetracyclines

- Nitroimidazoles (Metronidazole) is used for the treatment of infections caused by:
- Entamoeba histolytica,
- Giardia lamblia,
- Trichomonas vaginalis,
- anaerobic cocci, and anaerobic gram-negative bacilli (Bacteroides species),
- for the treatment of pseudomembranous colitis caused by the anaerobic, gram-positive bacillus Clostridium difficile.



A. Antibacterial drugs acting on DNA

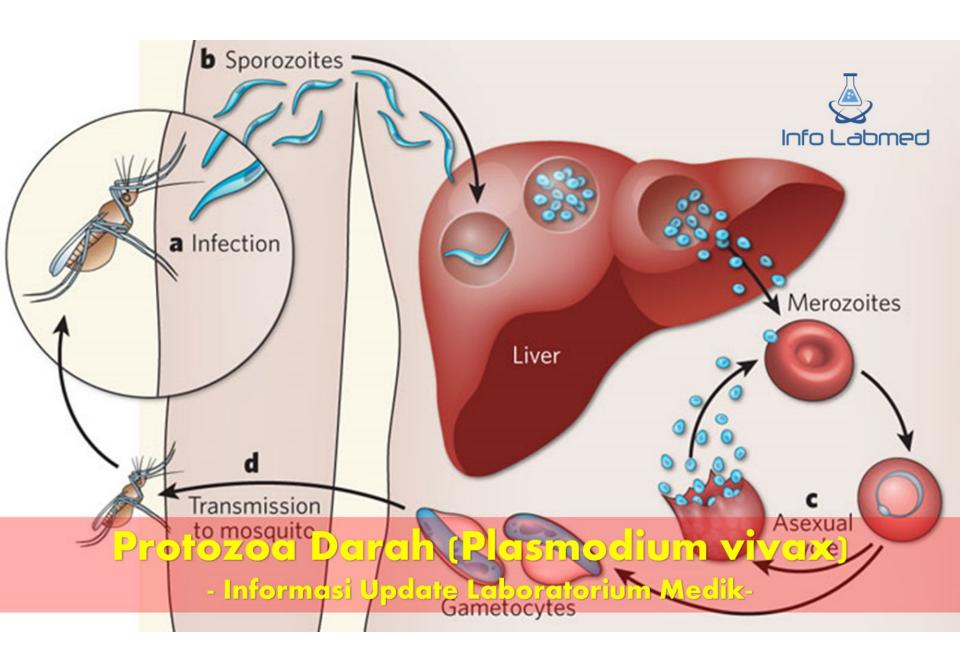
- The nitro group of **Nitroimidazoles** is able to serve as an electron acceptor, forming reduced cytotoxic compounds that bind to proteins and DNA. The drugs disrupt metabolism and cause death of microorganisms.
- They are absorbed well from GIT, distribute well throughout body tissues and fluids. Therapeutic levels can be found in vaginal and seminal fluids, saliva, breast milk, and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
- Tinidazole and ornidazole are well absorbed from GIT, accumulated in the plasma in higher concentrations than Metronidazole and provide longer effect than it.

# **Adverse effects:**

- ☐ nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress, and abdominal cramps, an unpleasant, metallic taste,
- □ oral moniliasis (yeast infection of the mouth),
- neurotoxicity (dizziness, vertigo, and numbness or paresthesia),
- □ a disulfiram-like reaction (if taken with alcohol).

 Malaria is one of the most common diseases worldwide and a leading cause of death. *Plasmodium* species that infect humans (P falciparum, P malariae, P ovale, P vivax) undergo a primary developmental stage in the liver and then parasitize erythrocytes. P falciparum and P malariae have only 1 cycle of liver cell invasion. The other species have a dormant hepatic stage responsible for recurrent infections and relapses. Primary tissue schizonticides (eg, primaquine) kill schizonts in the liver, whereas blood schizonticides (eg, chloroquine, quinine) kill these parasitic forms only in the erythrocyte. Sporonticides (proguanil, pyrimethamine) prevent sporogony and multiplication in the mosquito.

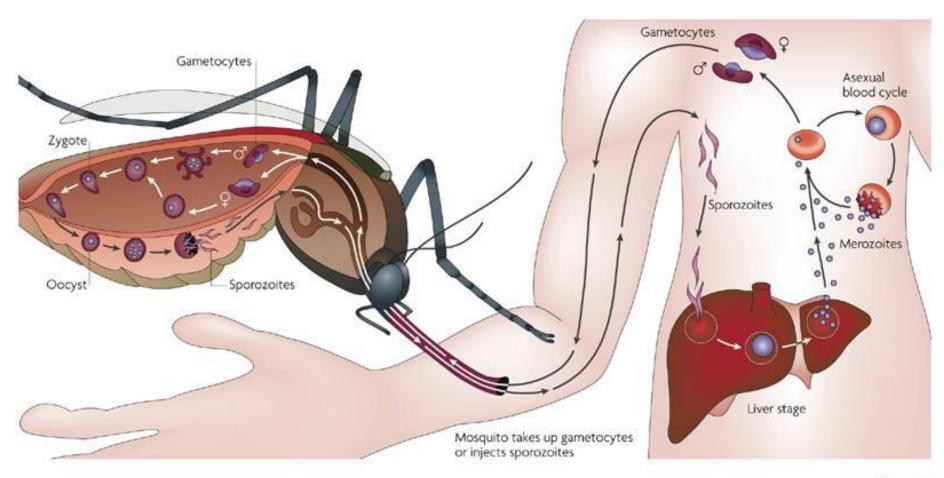
# **DRUGS FOR MALARIA**



# Principals of antimalarial drugs use

- 1. Individual chemoprophylaxis: prevention of the development of malaria in men during the time of residency in a area which has a high risk of malaria. We can use drugs influencing on preerythrocytic forms or hematoshizotropic drugs (pyrimethamine, chloroquin)
- 2. The treatment: oral administration of hematoshizotropic drugs, which influence erythrocytic forms of plasmodia. These drugs are used to cure the acute attacks of M.

- 3. Prevention of delayed relapses: administration of drugs which have tropism towards paraerythrocytic forms (primaquine).
- 4. Social chemoprophylaxis: prevention of the transmission of the infection by a sick person. We use gametotropic drugs (primaquine, pyrimethamine).



- Chinine (Quinine) complexes with doublestranded DNA and prevents strand separation, blocks DNA replication and transcription to RNA. It is solely a blood schizonticide.
- It is rapidly absorbed orally and is metabolized before renal excretion. Intravenous administration of quinine is possible in severe infections.
- It is used in the treatment of severe or complicated falciparum malaria.
- Adverse effects: **cinchonism** (gastrointestinal distress, headache, vertigo, blurred vision and tinnitus).

- Chloroquine is rapidly absorbed when given orally, is widely distributed to tissues.
- It accumulates in the food vacuole of plasmodia and prevents polymerization of the hemoglobin breakdown product heme into hemozoin. Intracellular accumulation of heme is toxic to the parasite.
- It is the drug of choice for acute attacks of malaria and for chemoprophylaxis.
- Side effects: gastrointestinal irritation, skin rash, and headaches; peripheral neuropathies, myocardial depression, retinal damage, auditory impairment, and toxic psychosis

- Sulfonamides act as antimetabolites of PABA and block folic acid synthesis by inhibiting dihydropteroate synthase.
- Pyrimethamine is a selective inhibitor of protozoan dihydrofolate reductases. The combination has synergistic antimalarial effects (blockade of 2 steps in folic acid synthesis).
- The antifols are blood schizonticides that act mainly against *P falciparum*.
- Adverse effects: skin rashes, gastrointestinal distress, hemolysis, kidney damage.

- **Primaquine** is a synthetic 8-aminoquinoline. It is used orally.
- It forms quinoline- quinone metabolites, which are electron-transferring redox compounds that act as cellular oxidants. The drug is a tissue schizonticide and also limits malaria transmission by acting as a gametocide.
- Uses: Eradication of liver stages of *P vivax and P ovale*, primary prevention
- Adverse effects: GI distress, methemoglobinemia, hemolysis in G6PD deficiency

# Nitrofuran derivatives

Nitrofural: antiseptic

Furazolidon: intestinal infections, giardiasis, Trichomonas colpitis

Nitrofurantoin (Furadonin), Furazidin (Furagin): uroinfection.

# **Spectrum:**

- Gram-negative bacteria: Escherichia coli, Shigella, Salmonella, Klebsiella
- Cocci (entero-, staphylo-, strepto-, meningo, gonorrhea)
- Vibrio cholerae, Giardia, Trichomonas

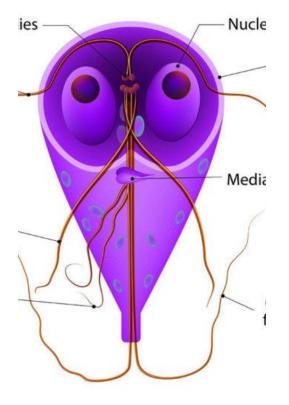
## Mechanism:

- The restoration of the nitro group to the amino group under the influence of reductase microbial cells.
- \* The formation of complexes with nucleic acids,
- ❖ Disruption of the respiratory chain of microorganisms.
- ❖ Increase in the body's resistance to infections.
- ❖ The decline in the production of toxins.
  - Type of action: bacteriostatic or bactericidal

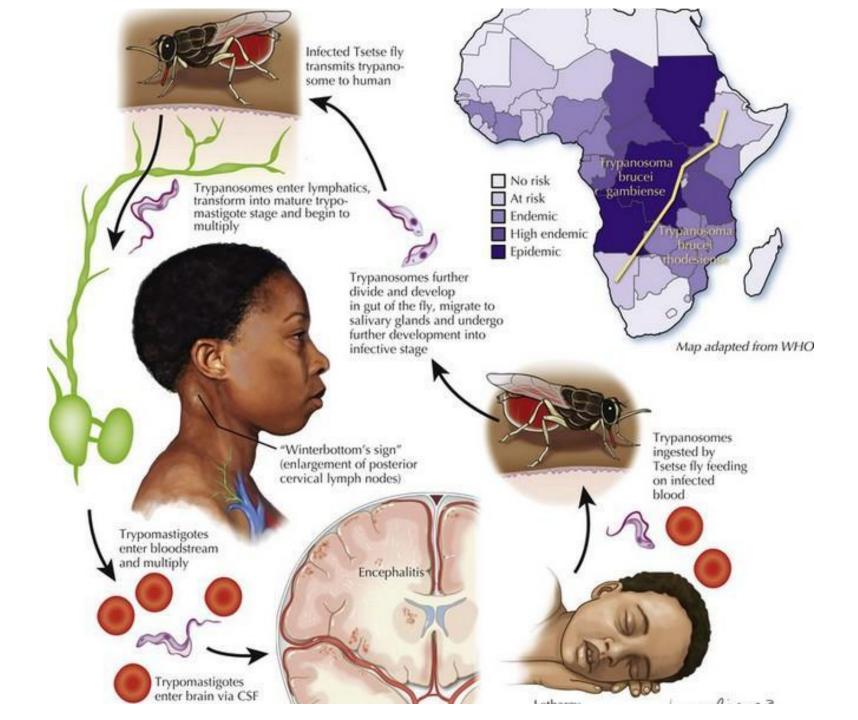
# Side effects

- Dyspeptic disorders: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea;
- Cholestasis; disorders of liver function;
- Allergic reaction;
- Headache, dizziness;
- Hemolytic anemia,
- Methemoglobinemia in children up to a year;
- Arterial hypertension

#### **GIARDIA**



- Melarsoprol is used for the treatment of trypanosomal infections. The drug reacts with sulfhydryl groups of various substances, including enzymes in both the organism and host.
- It is administered by slow IV injection and has irritating effect. Adequate trypanocidal concentrations appear in the CSF. The drug has a very short half-life and is rapidly excreted in urine.
- Adverse effects: CNS toxicity, peripheral neuropathy, hypertension, albuminuria; allergy, febrile reactions; hemolytic anemia in patients with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency.



Leishmania, transmitted by flesh-eating flies, cause various diseases ranging from or mucocutaneous lesions to splenic and hepatic enlargement with fever.



- Solusurminum and Sodium stibogluconate (pentavalent antimony) kills the parasite by inhibition of glycolysis or effects on nucleic acid metabolism.
- Stibogluconate must be administered parenterally and is potentially cardiotoxic (QT prolongation). Alternative agents include fluconazole or metronidazole (for cutaneous lesions), and amphotericin (for mucocutaneous leishmaniasis).

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