

June 23, 2011

The following file is a list of studies which identify Blastocystis as pathogenic.

This document and others are available from BRF's web site,  
<http://www.bhomcenter.org>

The methodology used in selecting these studies is identical to that used in the following study:

Boorom KF, Smith H, Nimri L, Viscogliosi E, Spanakos G, Parkar U, Li LH, Zhou XN, Ok UZ, Leelayoova S, Jones MS. [Oh my aching gut: irritable bowel syndrome, Blastocystis, and asymptomatic infection.](#) Parasit Vectors. 2008 Oct 21;1(1):40.

URL for this paper:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2627840/?tool=pubmed>

The reader can refer to that study for details. Additionally, several pages which describe the methodology follow this page.

Related URL's:

Complete list of Pubmed-Indexed studies identifying Blastocystis as pathogenic (144 studies):  
[http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011\\_06\\_BRF\\_PATHOGENIC\\_LIST.pdf](http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011_06_BRF_PATHOGENIC_LIST.pdf)

Same list as above, including abstracts (144 studies):  
[http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011\\_06\\_BRF\\_PATHOGENIC\\_LIST\\_LONG.pdf](http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011_06_BRF_PATHOGENIC_LIST_LONG.pdf)

Complete list of Pubmed-Indexed studies identifying Blastocystis as non-pathogenic (17 studies):  
[http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011\\_06\\_BRF\\_NONPATHOGENIC\\_LIST.pdf](http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011_06_BRF_NONPATHOGENIC_LIST.pdf)

Same list as above, including abstracts (17 studies):  
[http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011\\_06\\_BRF\\_NONPATHOGENIC\\_LIST\\_LONG.pdf](http://bhomcenter.org/pdfs/2011_06_BRF_NONPATHOGENIC_LIST_LONG.pdf)

Best Regards,

Ken Boorom  
Vice President Research  
Blastocystis Research Foundation

# Supplementary File #3 for "Oh my aching gut: IBS, Blastocystis, and asymptomatic infection"

BMC Parasites and Vectors, 2008

**This Excel file contains four spreadsheets which can be accessed by selecting the appropriate tab at the bottom on the screen**

## Contents

Worksheet "MethodsResults"	This worksheet
Worksheet "MoreResults"	Table comparing researcher finding with study method
Worksheet "StudiesIncluded"	List of all studies included in this analysis
Worksheet "StudiesNotIncluded"	List of all studies not included in this analysis

## ANALYSIS OF RESEARCHER CONCLUSION ON PATHOGENICITY IN PUBLISHED STUDIES OF BLASTOCYSTIS INFECTION

### Methods Used In Systematic Review of Blastocystis Papers:

Articles indexed by the United States National Institutes of Health PubMed database were searched for the term Blastocystis on January 19, 2008. Articles were included where medically relevant information was reported regarding Blastocystis pathogenicity in immunocompetent humans following some study of Blastocystis from a human, or study of Blastocystis isolates known to be carried by humans. Studies reporting that Blastocystis was pathogenic were only included if information could be obtained from that study's title and abstract. An additional effort was made to identify studies that reported that Blastocystis was non-pathogenic. A full-text copy of any paper finding Blastocystis was non-pathogenic was obtained, and the citations were searched for further studies that supported that view. These studies were added to this survey.

Studies were classified as reporting Blastocystis being a "non-pathogenic organism" when no immune response was found, no association was found between Blastocystis infection and symptoms or no medically relevant physiological changes were found in association with Blastocystis infection.

Studies were classified as reporting Blastocystis being a "pathogenic organism" when an immune response unique to symptomatic patients was detected, Blastocystis infection was associated with symptoms, or medically relevant physiological changes were found in association with Blastocystis infection. The review methods were separated into various specific categories using the criteria below.

**Animal studies** seek to assess pathogenicity by determining if laboratory animals that are experimentally infected with the organism exhibit symptoms of disease.

**Antibody studies** seek to determine if patients in whom an organism is suggested to cause disease exhibit a specific antibody response to the organism that was absent in asymptomatic patients.

**Genotyping studies** seek to assess pathogenicity by determining if symptomatic status is correlated with a specific genotype of an organism.

**Clinical studies** seek to infer pathogenicity from information collected about the patient's symptoms, response to medical interventions, and test results in a clinical environment.

**In vitro cell culture** studies co-culture the organism with intestinal epithelial cells and determine if the impact of the organism on the cells is consistent with the symptoms reported in the infection.

**Case Reports** can be considered clinical studies performed with a small number of patients.

Studies that used 10 or more patients were classified as **clinical studies**.

**Epidemiological surveys** seek to assess pathogenicity by determining if symptoms occur at a higher rate in a group with Blastocystis infection or by determining if Blastocystis occurs at a higher rate in a group with disease (case-control study)

**Physiological studies** seek to assess pathogenicity by identifying measurable physiological properties that are altered during infection with Blastocystis

## Results of Survey

Of the 680 studies returned through the PubMed search, 102 met the criteria for inclusion in this review. Excluded studies consisted of 209 microbiological studies without clinical information; 134 parasitological surveys that did not include clinical information; 53 reviews; 49 studies of Blastocystis in immunocompromised persons; 40 studies that did not focus on Blastocystis directly; 38 studies of Blastocystis in animals; 36 studies where insufficient information was available in the title and abstract to assess the study's conclusions; 12 comments on other studies; and 7 studies where no clear conclusion was discernable.

Of the 102 papers meeting this review criteria, 16% (16/102) reported findings consistent with Blastocystis being non-pathogenic, while 84% (86/102) of the studies reported data suggesting that Blastocystis caused disease (pathogenic).

### NOTES:

In the survey of studies conducted for this review, it was found that 44% (8/18) of the studies performed in North America before 1994 reported negative findings, while only 7% (6/85) of the studies performed after 1994 or outside North America reported such findings, a statistically significant correlation ( $P < 0.0022$ , Fisher's Exact Test).

# PubMed

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## Results: 144

- [Blastocystis sp. Subtype 4 is Common in Danish Blastocystis-Positive Patients Presenting with Acute Diarrhea.](#)
  1. Stensvold CR, Christiansen DB, Olsen KE, Nielsen HV.  
Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2011 Jun;84(6):883-5.  
PMID: 21633023 [PubMed - in process]
  
- [The potential use of 29 kDa protein as a marker of pathogenicity and diagnosis of symptomatic infections with Blastocystis hominis.](#)
  2. Abou Gamra MM, Elwakil HS, El Deeb HK, Khalifa KE, Abd Elhafiz HE.  
Parasitol Res. 2011 May;108(5):1139-46. Epub 2010 Dec 7.  
PMID: 21136081 [PubMed - in process]
  
- [Six ulcerative colitis patients with refractory symptoms co-infective with Blastocystis hominis in China.](#)
  3. Tai WP, Hu PJ, Wu J, Lin XC.  
Parasitol Res. 2011 May;108(5):1207-10. Epub 2010 Nov 23.  
PMID: 21104272 [PubMed - in process]
  
- [Clinical efficacy of Saccharomyces boulardii or metronidazole in symptomatic children with Blastocystis hominis infection.](#)
  4. Dinleyici EC, Eren M, Dogan N, Reyhanioglu S, Yargic ZA, Vandenplas Y.  
Parasitol Res. 2011 Mar;108(3):541-5. Epub 2010 Oct 5.  
PMID: 20922415 [PubMed - in process]
  
- [Protease activity of Blastocystis hominis subtype3 in symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.](#)
  5. Abdel-Hameed DM, Hassanin OM.  
Parasitol Res. 2011 Jan 29. [Epub ahead of print]  
PMID: 21279383 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
  
- [Comparison of methods for detection of Blastocystis infection in routinely submitted stool samples, and also in IBS/IBD Patients in Ankara, Turkey.](#)
  6. Dogruman-AI F, Simsek Z, Boorum K, Ekici E, Sahin M, Tuncer C, Kustimur S, Altinbas A.  
PLoS One. 2010 Nov 18;5(11):e15484.  
PMID: 21124983 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] **Free PMC Article**
  
- [Blastocystis sp. subtype 2 detection during recurrence of gastrointestinal and urticarial symptoms.](#)
  7. Vogelberg C, Stensvold CR, Monecke S, Ditzen A, Stopsack K, Heinrich-Gräfe U, Pöhlmann C.  
Parasitol Int. 2010 Sep;59(3):469-71. Epub 2010 Apr 2.  
PMID: 20363362 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
  
- [Blastocystis hominis and Dientamoeba fragilis in patients fulfilling irritable bowel syndrome criteria.](#)
  8. Yakoob J, Jafri W, Beg MA, Abbas Z, Naz S, Islam M, Khan R.  
Parasitol Res. 2010 Aug;107(3):679-84. Epub 2010 Jun 8.  
PMID: 20532564 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
  
- [Pathogenic potential of Blastocystis hominis in laboratory mice.](#)
  9. Elwakil HS, Hewedi IH.  
Parasitol Res. 2010 Aug;107(3):685-9. Epub 2010 May 25.  
PMID: 20499092 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
  
- [Elevated levels of urinary hyaluronidase in humans infected with intestinal parasites.](#)
  10. Chandramathi S, Suresh K, Kuppusamy UR.  
Ann Trop Med Parasitol. 2010 Jul;104(5):449-52. No abstract available.  
PMID: 20819313 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
  
- [Urinary hyaluronidase activity in rats infected with Blastocystis hominis--evidence for invasion?](#)
  11. Chandramathi S, Suresh KG, Mahmood AA, Kuppusamy UR.  
Parasitol Res. 2010 May;106(6):1459-63. Epub 2010 Apr 1.  
PMID: 20358228 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

12. [Encystation--survival of Blastocystis hominis in immunocompetent mice abdomen cavity.](#)  
Zhou XB, Zhang X, Qiao JY, Cai J, Cheng S, Yuan Y, Li J.  
Parasitol Res. 2010 May;106(6):1315-20. Epub 2010 Mar 20.  
PMID: 20306208 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
13. [Molecular characterization of Blastocystis isolates from zoo animals and their animal-keepers.](#)  
Parker U, Traub RJ, Vitali S, Elliot A, Levecke B, Robertson I, Geurden T, Steele J, Drake B, Thompson RC.  
Vet Parasitol. 2010 Apr 19;169(1-2):8-17. Epub 2010 Jan 4.  
PMID: 20089360 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
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Yakoob J, Jafri W, Beg MA, Abbas Z, Naz S, Islam M, Khan R.  
Parasitol Res. 2010 Apr;106(5):1033-8. Epub 2010 Feb 23.  
PMID: 20177906 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
15. [High levels of oxidative stress in rats infected with Blastocystis hominis.](#)  
Chandramathi S, Suresh K, Shuba S, Mahmood A, Kuppusamy UR.  
Parasitology. 2010 Apr;137(4):605-11. Epub 2009 Dec 7.  
PMID: 19961647 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
16. [Solubilized antigen of Blastocystis hominis facilitates the growth of human colorectal cancer cells, HCT116.](#)  
Chandramathi S, Suresh K, Kuppusamy UR.  
Parasitol Res. 2010 Mar;106(4):941-5. Epub 2010 Feb 18.  
PMID: 20165878 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
17. [\[Clinical and epidemiological characteristics of blastocystis hominis\].](#)  
Trabelsi S, Ali IB, Khaled S.  
Tunis Med. 2010 Mar;88(3):190-2. French.  
PMID: 20415193 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] **Free Article**
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Vassalos CM, Spanakos G, Vassalou E, Papadopoulou C, Vakalis N.  
Am J Clin Pathol. 2010 Feb;133(2):251-8.  
PMID: 20093234 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] **Free Article**
19. [Intestinal protozoa infections among patients with ulcerative colitis: prevalence and impact on clinical disease course.](#)  
Yamamoto-Furusho JK, Torijano-Carrera E.  
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PMID: 20145404 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
20. [Blastocystis: unravelling potential risk factors and clinical significance of a common but neglected parasite.](#)  
Stensvold CR, Lewis HC, Hammerum AM, Porsbo LJ, Nielsen SS, Olsen KE, Arendrup MC, Nielsen HV, Mølbak K.  
Epidemiol Infect. 2009 Nov;137(11):1655-63. Epub 2009 Apr 27.  
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22. [High prevalence of subtype 4 among isolates of Blastocystis hominis from symptomatic patients of a health district of Valencia \(Spain\).](#)  
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