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## Diseases and Conditions

# Pinworm infection

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**REVIEWED**

By Chris Tighe at 12:53 pm, May 17, 2016

- Basics
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### Definition

#### Symptoms

#### Causes

#### Risk factors

#### Complications

#### Preparing for your appointment

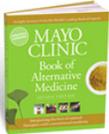
#### Tests and diagnosis

#### Treatments and drugs

#### Prevention

#### Products and services

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## Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Pinworm infection is the most common type of intestinal worm infection in the United States and one of the most common worldwide. Pinworms are thin and white, measuring about 1/4 to 1/2 inch (about 5 to 13 millimeters) in length.



While the infected person sleeps, female pinworms lay thousands of eggs in the folds of skin surrounding the anus. Most people infected with pinworms have no symptoms, but some people experience anal itching and restless sleep.

Pinworm infection occurs most often in school-age children, and the microscopic eggs are easily spread from child to child. Treatment involves oral drugs that kill the pinworms and thorough washing of bedclothes, bed linens and underwear. For best results, the entire family should be treated.

[Symptoms](#) →

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## Products and Services

Newsletter: [Mayo Clinic Health Letter](#)

Book: [Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 4th Edition](#)

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