






At a glance: the core neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

	Trachoma  <p>Trachomatous trichiasis</p>	Onchocerciasis  <p>A woman blinded by onchocerciasis</p>	Soil-transmitted helminths  <p>Adult female <i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i> worm</p>	Lymphatic filariasis  <p>Elephantiasis due to lymphatic filariasis</p>	Schistosomiasis  <p>Dipstick testing to detect haematuria. The sample on the left is negative for haematuria – the other two are both positive</p>
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Latin America • Yemen • China • India • Australia • South-East Asia • Pacific Islands <p>(see www.trachomaatlas.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Latin America • Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldwide <p>(see www.thiswormyworld.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa, • Asia • Latin America • Pacific Islands <p>(see www.thiswormyworld.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Asia • Latin America <p>(see www.thiswormyworld.org)</p>
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge from infected eyes spreads via fingers, fomites and eye-seeking flies (especially <i>Musca sorbens</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired by the bite of an infected blackfly (<i>Simulium sp.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggs are passed out in faeces and then swallowed by another host (<i>Ascaris</i>, <i>Trichuris</i>) or develop into infective larvae and penetrate intact skin (hookworm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired by the bite of infected mosquitoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquired by contact with standing fresh water (e.g. lakes) in which there are infected snails
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-school-age children have the highest prevalence of active trachoma. The prevalence of blindness from trachoma increases with age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living near rivers where blackflies breed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People living in communities with poor access to water and sanitation • People who walk barefoot are at risk of hookworm infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children acquire the infection, but sequelae tend to occur in adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adults who play, work or undertake chores on the edge of lakes
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflammation of the conjunctiva (active trachoma) • Conjunctival scarring • Trichiasis • Corneal opacification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nodules under the skin • Pruritus • Thickening of skin or loss of skin pigment • Punctate keratitis • Sclerosing keratitis • Uveitis • Chorioretinitis • Optic atrophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often asymptomatic • May contribute to anaemia leading to fatigue and lethargy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often asymptomatic • Enlargement of the limbs, genitals or breasts, with secondary skin changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute infection: fever, itchy rash • Chronic infection: often asymptomatic; haematuria, renal failure, bladder cancer (urinary schistosomiasis); liver failure (intestinal schistosomiasis)
Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin snip • Slitlamp examination of eye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stool microscopy for eggs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of night blood smear for microfilariae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine/stool microscopy for eggs
Treat	<p>Individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetracycline eye ointment twice daily for 6 weeks, or single dose azithromycin, 20mg/kg (maximum 1g), for active trachoma • Surgery for trichiasis <p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFE strategy 	<p>Individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivermectin 150µg/kg once a month for 3 months <p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass distribution of ivermectin 	<p>Individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose albendazole 400mg <p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass distribution of albendazole or mebendazole. • Improved access to safe methods for disposal of human faeces 	<p>Individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albendazole 400mg for 21 days • Washing of swollen parts to reduce risk of secondary infection and progression of elephantiasis <p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass distribution of DEC+ albendazole, or (if onchocerciasis co-endemic) ivermectin+ albendazole 	<p>Individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two doses of praziquantel 20mg/kg taken 6 hours apart after food <p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass distribution of praziquantel • Improved access to safe methods for disposal of human faeces • Education