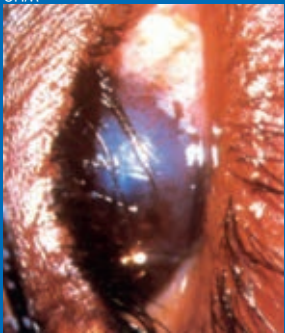






At a glance: the core neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

	Trachoma	Onchocerciasis	Soil-transmitted helminths	Lymphatic filariasis	Schistosomiasis
					
	Trachomatous trichiasis	A woman blinded by onchocerciasis	Adult female <i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i> worm	Elephantiasis due to lymphatic filariasis	Dipstick testing to detect haematuria. The sample on the left is negative for haematuria – the other two are both positive
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Latin America • Yemen • China • India • Australia • South-East Asia • Pacific Islands (see www.trachomaatlas.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Latin America • Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldwide (see www.thiswormyworld.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa, • Asia • Latin America • Pacific Islands (see www.thiswormyworld.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa • Asia • Latin America (see www.thiswormyworld.org)
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</i> sp.) 	<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	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivermectin 150µg/kg once a month for 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose albendazole 400mg 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual: Two doses of praziquantel 20mg/kg taken 6 hours apart after food • Population: Mass distribution of praziquantel • Improved access to safe methods for disposal of human faeces • Education