HUMAN INTESTINAL WORMS

WHAT ARE HUMAN INTESTINAL WORMS?

Intestinal worms are worms that live within the intestines of humans. These are parasitic worms, which feed on the food that passes through the human digestive tract.

These worms spend their entire lifetimes in the intestines of humans. They breed within the intestines, and increase their population.

*There are three (3) types of worms known to cause infections in humans.*

1. **Flatworms** also known as tape worms
2. **Roundworms** are also known as pinworms or threadworms.
3. **Hook worms** may cause anemia

SYMPTOMS OF INTESTINAL WORMS

Since worms are normally found in all human beings, mostly there are no symptoms observed with a few worms living inside the intestine. In adults, there are no symptoms observed until it reaches a drastic limit.

Most of the symptoms include:

1. A mild tickling/itchy sensation near the anal opening, and the adjoining skin.
2. Loss of appetite and fatigue.
3. In most worm infections, there can be diarrhea
4. Gas being released noisily and with a bad odour.

WHO CAN GET WORMS?

Worms are commonly found all over the world, and in all environments, therefore it is difficult to say who is not at risk from them. Almost everyone in the world has been infected with worms at one time in their life.

Infants and children are at a higher risk, as well as persons who work with the earth such as farmers and gardeners. Even people who are in the habit of walking barefooted in gardens and lawns can attract pinworms and hookworms through the soles of their feet.

TREATMENT FOR INTESTINAL WORMS

Treatment includes “worming medication” such as albendazole and mebendazole. These can be obtained in your pharmacy. For further information on de-worming options consult your physician or pharmacist.