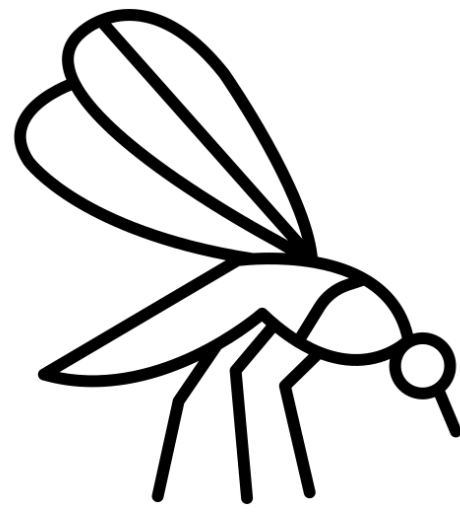


Leishmaniasis

Fact Sheet



Leishmaniasis is a disease caused by a parasite. It spreads to people through the bite of an infected sand fly. The most common forms of the disease are cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis.



The parasite is found in many different parts of the world. On rare occasions it is acquired in the southern United States. Anyone can be infected if they travel to areas where the parasite and sand fly are found.

Cutaneous Signs and Symptoms

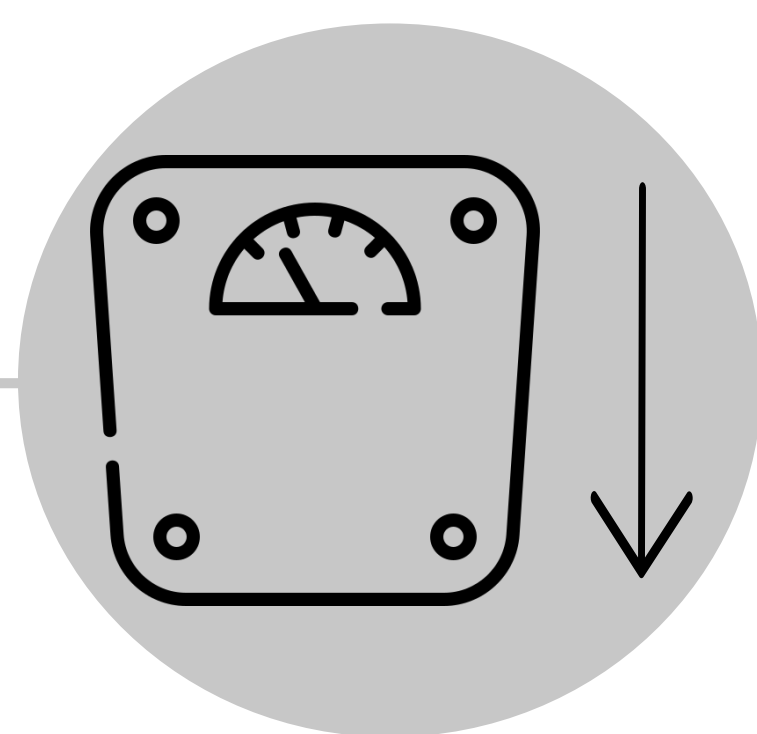


Cutaneous leishmaniasis causes skin sores. The sores usually start as bumps or lumps and may end up as ulcers. Symptoms usually start within a few weeks or months after a sand fly bite.

Visceral Signs and Symptoms



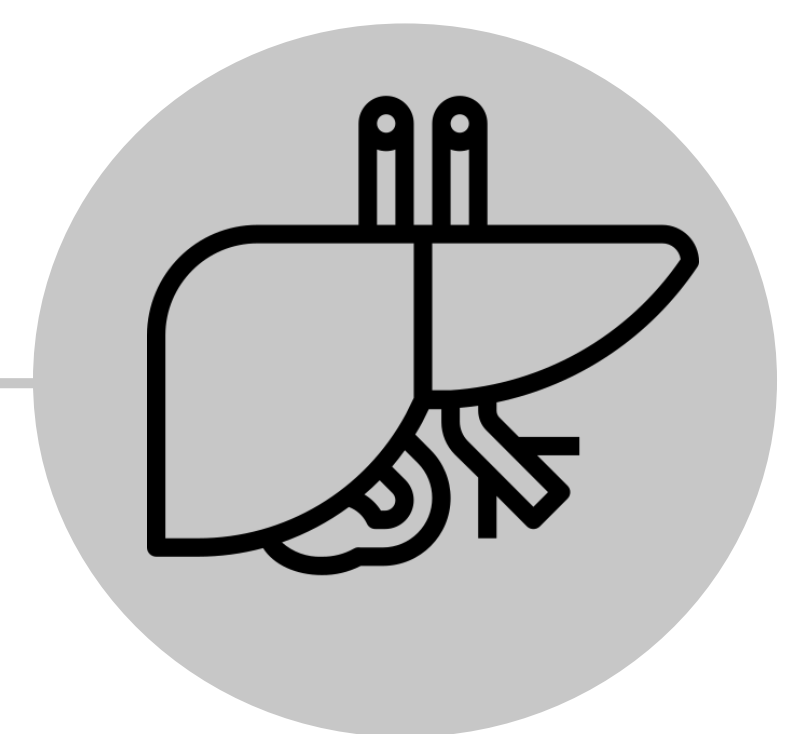
Fever



Weight Loss



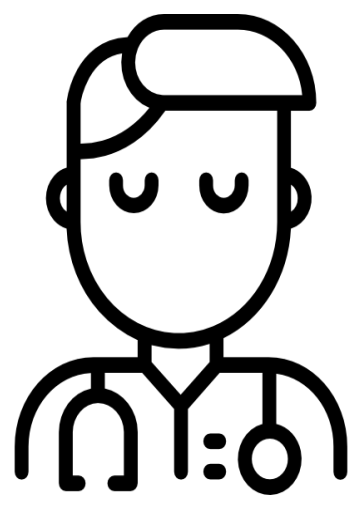
Severe Stomach Pain



Swelling of the Spleen and Liver

Visceral leishmaniasis signs and symptoms can also include low blood counts. If untreated it often leads to death. Mucosal leishmaniasis can also occur. This includes involvement of the linings of the mouth, throat, and nose. When organs are affected, symptoms usually start within months to years after the sand fly bite.

Some people with leishmaniasis will not show any symptoms.



Talk to your healthcare provider if you have any of these signs or symptoms after traveling to an area with leishmaniasis. Your healthcare provider may order laboratory testing. Treatment depends on your healthcare provider's recommendations. Some types do not need treatment, while others may require prescription medications.

Prevent Leishmaniasis

The best way to prevent leishmaniasis is to protect yourself and your family from sand fly bites. This is important when traveling to areas with risk of leishmaniasis.



Use an EPA-approved repellent for use on skin such as:

- DEET
- Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- IR 3535
- Picaridin



Use permethrin on clothing.



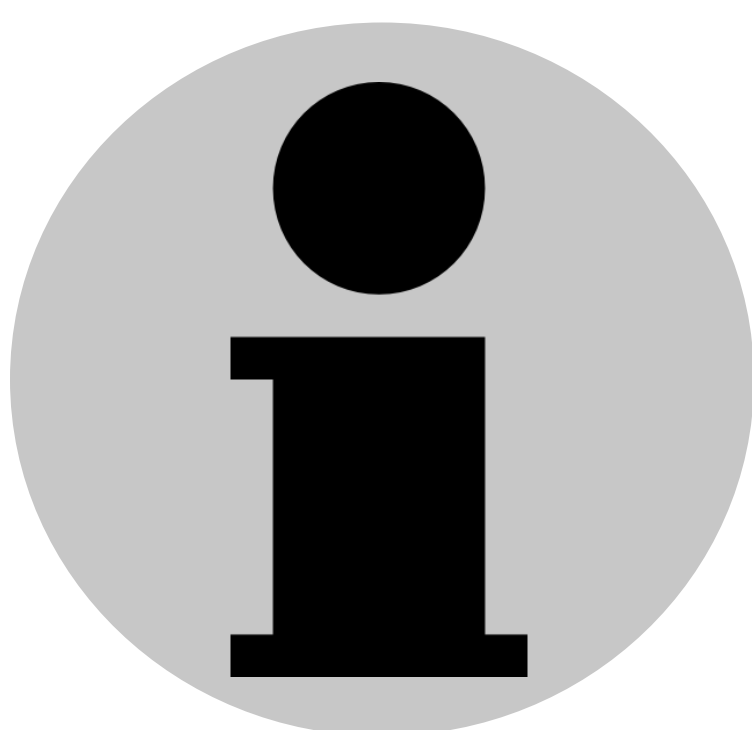
Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside.



Sleep under a treated bed net with a very fine grade of mesh. Sand flies are smaller than mosquitoes and can get through smaller holes.

Avoid outdoor activities from dawn to dusk when sand flies are most active. Stay in well-screened or air-conditioned areas.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.cdc.gov/parasites/leishmaniasis/
2. wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices (Travelers' Health page)
3. www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you (For EPA approved repellents)

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.