

TREATMENT

Diphyllobothriasis

Praziquantel (5–10 mg/kg once) is highly effective. Parenteral vitamin B₁₂ should be given if B₁₂ deficiency is manifest.

Prevention Infection can be prevented by heating fish to 54°C for 5 min or by freezing it at –18°C for 24 h. Placing fish in brine with a high salt concentration for long periods kills the eggs.

■ DIPYLIDIASIS

Dipylidium caninum, a common tapeworm of dogs and cats, may accidentally infect humans. Dogs, cats, and occasionally humans become infected by ingesting fleas harboring cysticercoids. Children are more likely to become infected than adults. Most infections are asymptomatic, but passage of segments in the stool or vague abdominal symptoms may occur. The diagnosis is made by the detection of proglottids or ova in the stool. As in *D. latus* infection, therapy consists of praziquantel. Prevention requires anthelminthic treatment and flea control for pet dogs or cats.

■ SPARGANOSIS

Humans can be infected by the sparganum, or plerocercoid larva, of a diphyllobothriid tapeworm of the genus *Spirometra*. Infection can be acquired by the consumption of water containing infected *Cyclops*; by the ingestion of infected snakes, birds, or mammals; or by the application of infected flesh as poultices. The worm migrates slowly in tissues, and infection commonly presents as a subcutaneous swelling. Periorbital tissues can be involved, and ocular sparganosis may destroy the eye. Surgical excision is used to treat localized sparganosis.

■ COENUROSIS

This rare infection of humans by the larval stage (coenurus) of the dog tapeworm *Taenia multiceps* or *T. serialis* results in a space-