

B.Sc. 1st Semester (Hons)
Dept. of Zoology
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Pathogenicity of *Wuchereria bancrofti*

The pathogenicity of *Wuchereria bancrofti* effects are mainly caused by the adult worms that infect the victims. This is asymptomatic disease meaning, there is no sign of symptoms even though a person is infected. When an infection caused by *Wuchereria bancrofti* is severe, there will be noticeable pathological problems in the lymphatic and immune system of the human body. The major pathogenic stages of *Wuchereria bancrofti* after it has been incubated are mentioned below.

Asymptomatic: -

During the asymptomatic stage no symptoms emerge which gives the parasite an opportunity to proliferate undetected. During this stage, many days or even months will go by and the microfilariae (embryonic larva of the parasite) will be discharged daily unnoticed.

Acute inflammatory: In the acute inflammatory stage, symptoms become noticeable. There will be swelling of the limbs, fever, chills, swollen gland, and even vomiting.

Chronic obstructive: Chronic obstructive stage is the most severe of the stages and can lead to death. This is the stage where elephantiasis becomes prominent. The inflammation may be caused by the movement of the worm, fertilized females releasing toxins during birth, and secondary infections in the lymphatic system.

Chronic obstructive diseases of the lymphatic system 1. Lymphangitis (infection of the lymph vessels) 2. Lymphadenitis (infection of the lymph nodes/ glands) 3. Hydrocoele (swelling in the scrotum due to accumulation of fluid) 4. Elephantiasis- Elephantiasis is the result of accumulated lymph because the worms are blocking the flow of lymph through the lymphatic system. The skin of the infected areas become rough, hard, dry, and extremely swollen.