



CUTANEOUS LARVA MIGRANS

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Cutaneous larva migrans, also known as creeping eruption or larva migrans, is a term used to describe twisting linear skin lesions caused by the burrowing of larvae. People who are exposed to soil and sand are most likely to be infected. The feet, hands, buttocks, and genitalia are most commonly affected. These lesions may itch, sting and eventually cause pain. They can move up to 2cm per day. Small blisters may also develop. Because the lesions are often scratched, secondary bacterial infection may develop and complicate the picture. In the United States the infection is most common along the southeastern coast and most often caused by the cat and dog hookworm (*Ancylostoma braziliense*). The disease is self-limited and rarely causes systemic problems.

If the parasitic infection is untreated the larvae usually die within 8 weeks, but may last for months. Oral and topical medication may clear the infection within a week. **Ivermectin** 12 mg or albendazole 400 mg are used orally, usually requiring 2 and 3 doses respectively. Topical thiabendazole or metronidazole may be used four times a day to help relieve the itching.

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