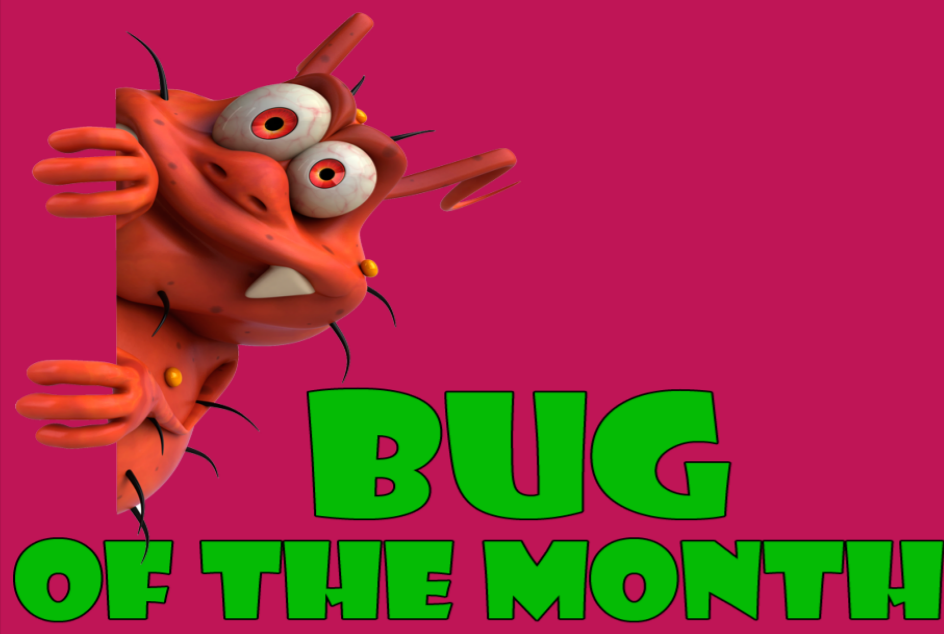


# For Staff /Patient Education



# Myiasis

December 2016

## What is it?

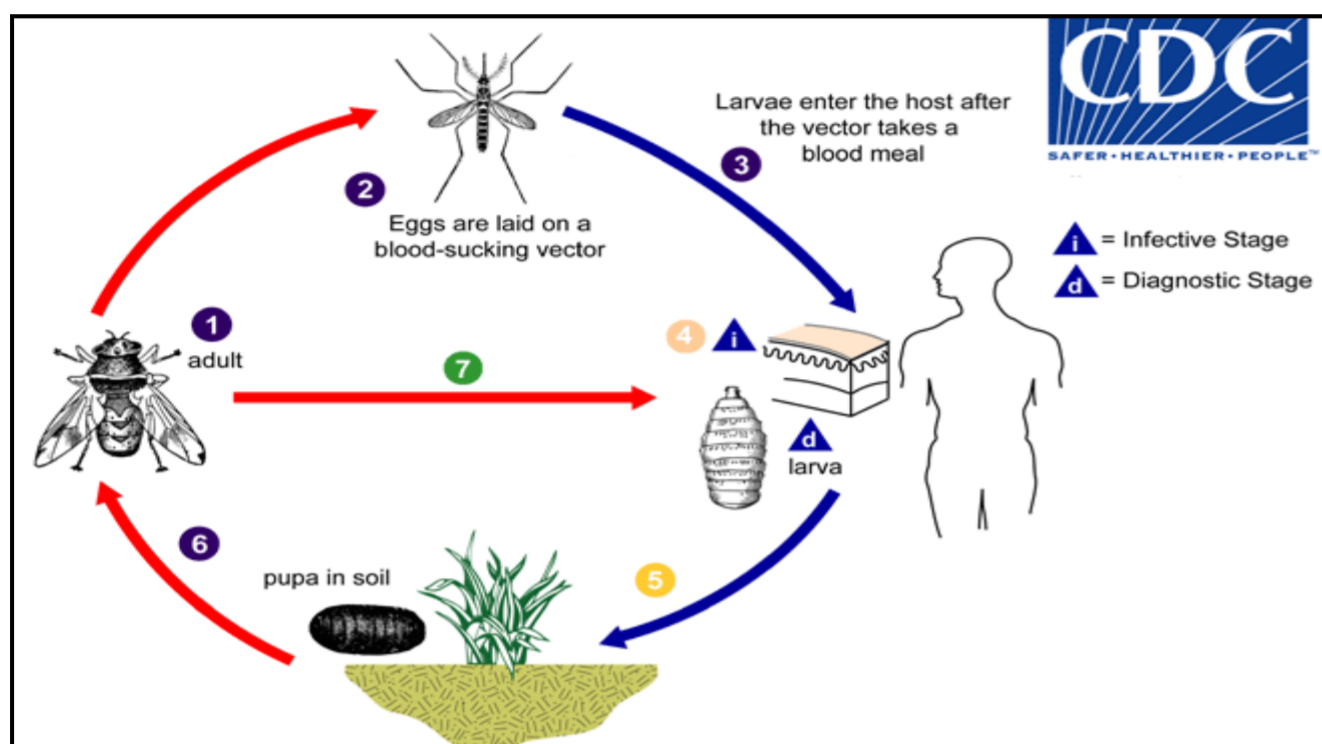


Image: L to R: Close-up of the anterior end of a larva, showing the mandibles and one of the anterior spiracles. Adult of *Dermatobia hominis*, the human bot fly. Four larvae of *Dermatobia hominis*, removed from a human host. [DPDX](#); Georgia Museum of Natural History.

- Myiasis is the infection of a fly larva (maggot) in human tissue.
- This occurs in tropical and subtropical areas. These can include countries in Central America, South America, Africa, and the Caribbean Islands.
- There are several ways for flies to transmit their larvae to people. Some flies attach their eggs to mosquitoes and wait for mosquitoes to bite people. Their larvae then enter these bites. Other flies' larvae burrow into skin. These fly larvae are known as screwworms. They can enter skin through people's bare feet when they walk through soil containing fly eggs or attach themselves to people's clothes and then burrow into their skin.
- Some flies deposit their larvae on or near a wound or sore, depositing eggs in sloughing-off dead tissue.
- People traveling with untreated and open wounds are more at risk for getting myiasis.

- A lump will develop in tissue as the larva grows. Larvae under the skin may move on occasion. Usually larvae will remain under the skin and not travel throughout the body.

## How is it spread?

- Transmission of fly larvae to human host differs among the many species of flies. Fly eggs deposited by biting arthropod (mosquitoes, ticks or other flies that harbor larvae). Some flies lay their eggs on drying clothes that are hung outside.
- One may get an infection from accidentally ingesting larvae, from having an open wound or sore, or through nose or ears. Myiasis is not spread from person to person.


## Where is it found?

- Mammals are the main reservoir

## Prevention and Control?

- Take extra care going to tropical areas and spending a lot of time outside.
- Cover your skin to limit the area open to bites from flies, mosquitoes, and ticks.
- Use insect repellent and follow Travelers Health guidelines.
- In areas where myiasis is known to occur, protect yourself by using window screens and mosquito nets.
- In tropical areas, iron any clothes that were put on the line to dry.
- The larvae need to be surgically removed by a medical professional. Typically, the wound is cleaned daily after the larvae are removed. Proper hygiene of wounds is very important when treating myiasis. Sometimes medication is given, depending on the type of larva that causes the problem.

### For more information contact:

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### Source:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasite/s/myiasis/>



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