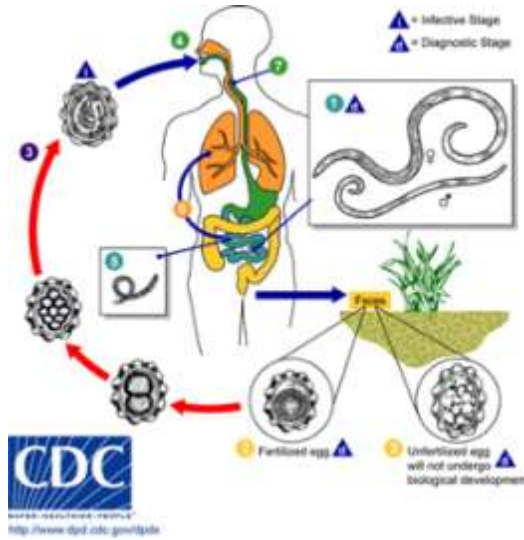


XVII. Diseases of the Digestive System



| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ascariasis | | | | |
| A piece of small intestine: | Is swollen and expanded Filled with Ascaris worms Shows an opening through which appear few worms | | | |
| | Worms: | Are Ascaris in type Numerous Obstructing the lumen of the intestine Some are protruding through an opening in the intestine | | |



N.B.: This piece of small intestine belongs to a child who had been operated upon for an acute abdomen which proved to be due to intestinal obstruction (due to Ascaris worms).





| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ascaris Worms | |
| <i>A collection of worms</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Ascaris in type • Amount to few hundreds • Resemble the earth-worms |
| <i>Ascaris worms</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are cylindrical • Pointed at both ends • Non-segmented but with striations • Yellowish in colour • Each measures 10-20 cm. in length |

N.B.1:

- These Ascaris worms were removed **from the intestine of a child who complained of manifestations of intestinal obstruction** followed by symptoms and signs of **septic peritonitis**.
- During operation, the cause proved to be **perforation of the intestine and protrusion of some of the Ascaris worms**.



N.B.2:

- Infection by the round worm "Ascaris lumbricoides" occurs by ingestion of the fertilized eggs.
- The **eggs hatch in the duodenum and upper part of the small intestine;**
- Embryos penetrate the mucous membrane → **pass in blood stream to reach the liver → enter hepatic veins and thus can reach the heart then the lungs.**
- They **penetrate the alveoli** → escape into the bronchi, pass up the **trachea** → pass out with the **sputum and are swallowed** → pass down the **oesophagus to the stomach** and thus they reach the **small intestine where they develop into mature worms** (one month after the ingestion).

