

Special Issue on Latent or Chronic Toxoplasmosis?

CALL FOR PAPERS

Toxoplasmosis is a worldwide zoonosis caused by the apicomplexan protozoan *Toxoplasma gondii*, which affects about two billion people globally. The parasite is transmitted by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the oocysts present in the stools of felines (definitive hosts) or of raw or undercooked meat derived from intermediate hosts (sheep, goats, pigs, cows, etc.). It can also be transferred by vertical transmission, blood transfusion, or solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

Most infected immunocompetent adults show an absent or mild clinical picture; however, major problems can arise in immunocompromised individuals or in fetuses during pregnancy. Yet, in recent decades, some research has shown behavior changes, potentially induced by the parasite, either in experimentally infected rodents or in infected humans. This would suggest that infection with the parasite could directly modify the function of central nervous system cells and different mechanisms are envisaged to explain this.

Furthermore, some research has shown that the parasite could act indirectly to induce a proinflammatory response. By all these mechanisms, infection with *T. gondii* could be associated with the occurrence of neuropsychiatric disease in genetically predisposed individuals.

In the literature, the terms latent toxoplasmosis and chronic toxoplasmosis are often used equivocally, although these terms indicate quite different situations; latent infection is silent and the host's immune response remains stable and fully competent; however, modifications of homeostasis can occur in chronic toxoplasmosis in an immunocompetent host.

The aim of this special issue is to focus on the relationship between the concepts of latent and chronic toxoplasmosis. Authors are invited to submit research papers, reviews, and clinical studies in favor of or against this new interpretation of *T. gondii* infection.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Immunology of toxoplasmosis
- ▶ Host-parasite relations in toxoplasmosis
- ▶ Clinical cases in immunocompromised patients
- ▶ Effects of chronic infection with *Toxoplasma gondii* at the central nervous system level
- ▶ Changes in host behavior during toxoplasmosis

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <https://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/scientifica/parasitology/lpcp/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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Submission Deadline

Friday, 30 March 2018

Publication Date

August 2018