

Protozoan infections and HIV-1 infection: a review

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Abstract:

Reactivation of latent infection is the principal mechanism relating *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Pneumocystis carinii* to HIV. Less common is reactivation in *Leishmania donovani*, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, and microsporidian infections. An impaired primary immune response occurs in all these infections, and also with *Cryptosporidium* and *Isospora belli*. Association of HIV infection with gut parasites including *Giardia lamblia* and *Entamoeba histolytica*, and also with *Trichomonas vaginalis* infection is likely to be related to sexual modes of contact that favour both HIV and the parasite. The severity of malaria is not definitely associated with HIV, but *Plasmodium falciparum* infection may favour more rapid evolution of the HIV infection. Both malaria and trichomoniasis favour HIV transmission; the former by necessitating blood transfusion, and the latter by enhancing viral transmission during sexual contact