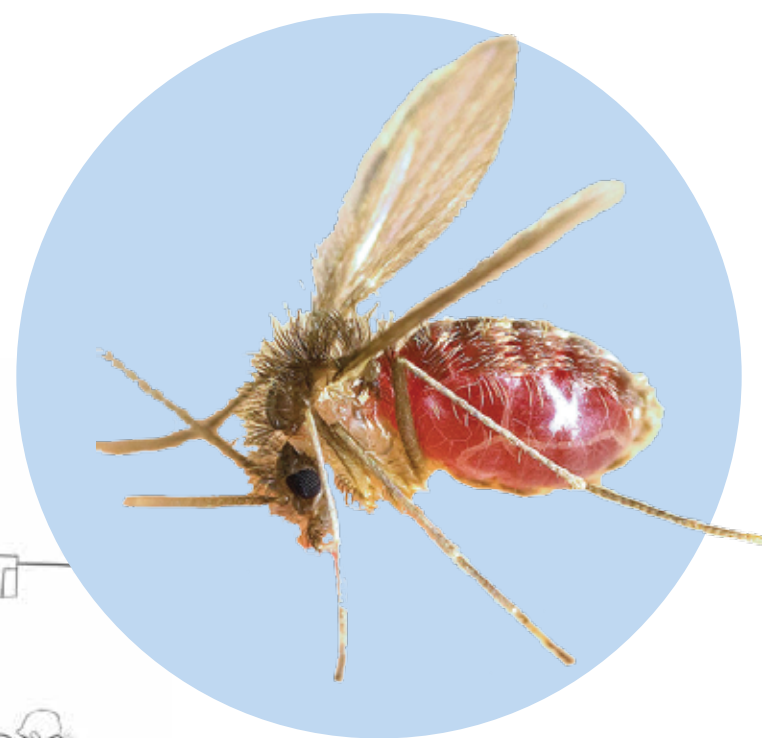


Leishmaniasis

Information for the general public



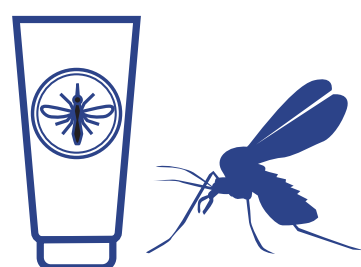
Source of infection

Vector-borne disease transmitted through the bites of infected female phlebotomine sandflies, which feed on blood to produce eggs.



Type of exposure & prevention

Leishmaniasis is caused by bite of an infected female sandfly (phlebotomine), a tiny 2–3 mm long insect vector. Poverty, poor housing, population mobility, malnutrition and weak immune system increases the risk of developing and transmitting disease. Prevent it by:



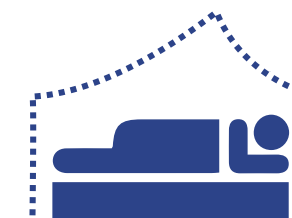
Remaining vigilant of sandflies, especially when outdoors



Conduct vector control by using pesticides



Cover full body with clothing to avoid exposing skin to sandfly bites



Use insecticide-treated nets

Symptoms

Leishmaniasis has three forms: visceral (Kala-Azar, most serious form); cutaneous (most common); and mucocutaneous. Depending upon its type it can be fatal. Symptoms include:

Visceral leishmaniasis



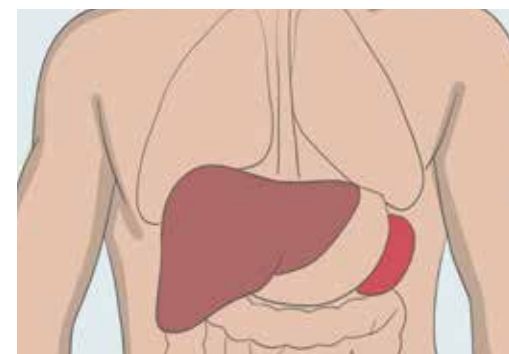
Irregular fever



Anaemia



Weight loss



Spleen and liver enlargement



Rash usually on face, upper arms, trunk and other parts of the body

Cutaneous leishmaniasis



Ulcers on exposed parts of the body (face, arms and legs)



Disfigured skin lesions after recovery

Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis



Lesions in the mucous membranes (nose, throat or mouth)

Actions to take in case of symptoms:



Seek medical advice immediately. Early diagnosis and access to safe medicine is important.



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean