

# FILARIASIS Introduction

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Filariasis is mainly caused by the parasite *Wuchereria bancrofti* , which is transmitted by the mosquito. Variants of the parasite called *Brugia malayi* and *Brugia timori* are responsible for causing the disease in about 10% of those infected. The condition affects more than 120 million people worldwide, two-thirds of whom live in India, China and Indonesia. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), after leprosy , filariasis is the most common cause of long-term disability . Once the host has been bitten by the mosquito, the matured eggs enter the human circulation to hatch and grow into adult worms; the process of maturation takes almost a year. The adult worms mainly colonise the lymphatic system.

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