

Merlin disease code: 12400 Trichinellosis (Trichinosis)

[Paper case report form](#) required  
No Merlin extended data

## Clinical criteria for case classification

A disease caused by ingestion of *Trichinella* larvae, usually through consumption of *Trichinella*-containing meat (or food contaminated with such meat) that has been inadequately cooked prior to consumption. The disease has variable clinical manifestations. Common signs and symptoms among symptomatic persons include eosinophilia, fever, myalgia, and periorbital edema.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

### Confirmatory:

Either of the following:

- Demonstration of *Trichinella* larvae in tissue obtained by muscle biopsy
- **Or** positive *Trichinella* serologic test (e.g., enzyme immunoassay [EIA], immunofluorescence assay [IF]).

### Presumptive:

Demonstration of *Trichinella* larvae in the food item.

## Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- A person who consumed a meat product in which the parasite was demonstrated
- **Or** a person who shared an epidemiologically implicated meal or ate an epidemiologically implicated meat product.

## Case classification

### Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with confirmatory laboratory criteria (clinical specimen).

### Probable:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with compatible exposure history.

### Suspect:

A person with no clinically compatible illness with epidemiological criteria and a positive serologic test for *Trichinella* (and no known prior history of *Trichinella* infection).

## Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

## Comments

In an outbreak setting, at least one clinical case must have laboratory criteria.

Epidemiologically implicated meals or meat products are defined as a meal or meat product that was consumed by a person who subsequently developed a clinically compatible illness that was laboratory-confirmed.

Negative serologic results may not accurately reflect disease status if blood was drawn less than 3-4 weeks from symptom onset (Wilson et. al, 2006).