

What is cryptosporidiosis?

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrhoeal illness caused by a parasite called cryptosporidium. Both children and adults can get it, but it is more common in children.

What illness results from infection?

The illness usually starts with watery, often bloody, diarrhoea. It is usually self-limiting and lasts for a few days. In some cases, it can lead to more serious complications, such as dehydration, weight loss, and malabsorption. In immunocompromised individuals, it can become a chronic condition.

Should I see my GP?

You should see your GP if you have persistent diarrhoea, blood in your stool, or if you are unable to eat or drink. You should also see your GP if you are immunocompromised or have a chronic condition.

How are infections treated?

Most people recover on their own. Treatment is usually supportive, focusing on hydration and rest. In some cases, antibiotics may be prescribed.

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Where does crypto come from?

Cryptosporidium is a parasite that lives in the intestines of many animals, including cows, pigs, and chickens. It is often found in water, soil, and food. The parasite is very hardy and can survive in the environment for a long time.

**If someone in your household has
crypto:**

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