

We Need Your Help...

56 Tibetan Children Have Tested Positive For A Dangerous Parasitic Disease

Now Each Needs A Brain Scan to Determine Treatment

BLSCP is working to alleviate suffering by Tibetan communities in Kham (*Sichuan Province of China*). A **highly prevalent parasitic disease called cysticercosis** causes cysts in skeletal muscles, the central nervous system (then called **neurocysticercosis**), eyes, skin, or heart. Epileptic seizures

and headaches are the most common symptoms. Other symptoms include hydrocephalus and blindness. The risk factors for this preventable disease are eating undercooked pork, free-ranging pigs, lack of latrine facilities, lack of meat inspection, poor hygiene, and a poor economy.



The Challenge

- **BLSCP** became very familiar with **neurocysticercosis** in 2013, when we raised \$19,000 to fund brain surgery for Lhungtse.
- She had lost her eyesight from this disease.
- The brain surgery did not restore any of Lhungtse's eyesight but did relieve many of her other symptoms.
- BLSCP continues to fund her periodic medical checkups and anti-epileptic medicines.
- 56 Tibetan primary school students have tested positive for the same disease that Lhungtse has.
- Without appropriate treatment, they will probably develop epileptic seizures and possibly other more severe, even life-threatening symptoms.

Student MRI Budget \$36,700

Already Funded
\$28,958
44 Students

Balance Needed
\$7,742
12 Students

As of
5 September 2017



Dr. Li Tiaoying informing a Shuiluo student, without any symptoms, that she tested positive for cysticercosis

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Your donation of any amount is important. Kindly give as generously as possible.
You may donate by credit card to Parasite Medical Program at boulder-tibet.org/paypal.html.
Checks may be mailed to BLSCP, 776 Cottage Ln, Boulder CO 80304-0758.

Your tax-deductible donation to BLSCP will help 56 Tibetan primary school students avoid future suffering.

The Collaboration

- **Dr. Li Tiaoying**, Sichuan Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chengdu, has performed a blood test for cysticercosis for the 386 students at Shuiluo Primary School.
- The school is in Muli Tibetan Autonomous County, Liangshan Prefecture, (southern) Sichuan Province.
- 56 students tested positive and now need MRI brains scans to determine treatment methods.
- Treatment method depends on the location, number, size, and stage of cysts in the brain.
- **Dr. Li has invited BLSCP to raise the required funding and participate in the project.**

The Project

- The travel time from remote Shuiluo Township to the closest MRI facility in Xichang is two days.
- **October 2017** is when we will administer the MRI brain scans. If we can not raise our entire budget, a **lottery procedure** will determine which students will go to Xichang.
- **\$36,700 is the estimated cost** for the 56 MRIs, three buses for the six-day round trip, meals, hotel rooms, and project administration by Sichuan CDC, the local CDC, and six school teachers.



A Shuiluo student having his blood drawn for a test for cysticercosis According to Dr. Li: "Early diagnosis and treatment of cysticercosis lead to a better prognosis."



This Tibetan girl from Muli County, Donglang Township, has suffered from seizures for several years and lost her vision in one eye a few years ago. *Dr. Li's blood test showed a very strong positive, suggesting infection of neurocysticercosis.* This needs to be confirmed by an MRI brain scan, which will determine an appropriate treatment method.

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"So far there is no other organization or government to share the project cost, as cysticercosis is presently completely neglected in China. In China only my group is doing blood testing for mass screening of cysticercosis infection in the field."

Dr. Li Tiaoying



Dr. Li working in her laboratory in Chengdu

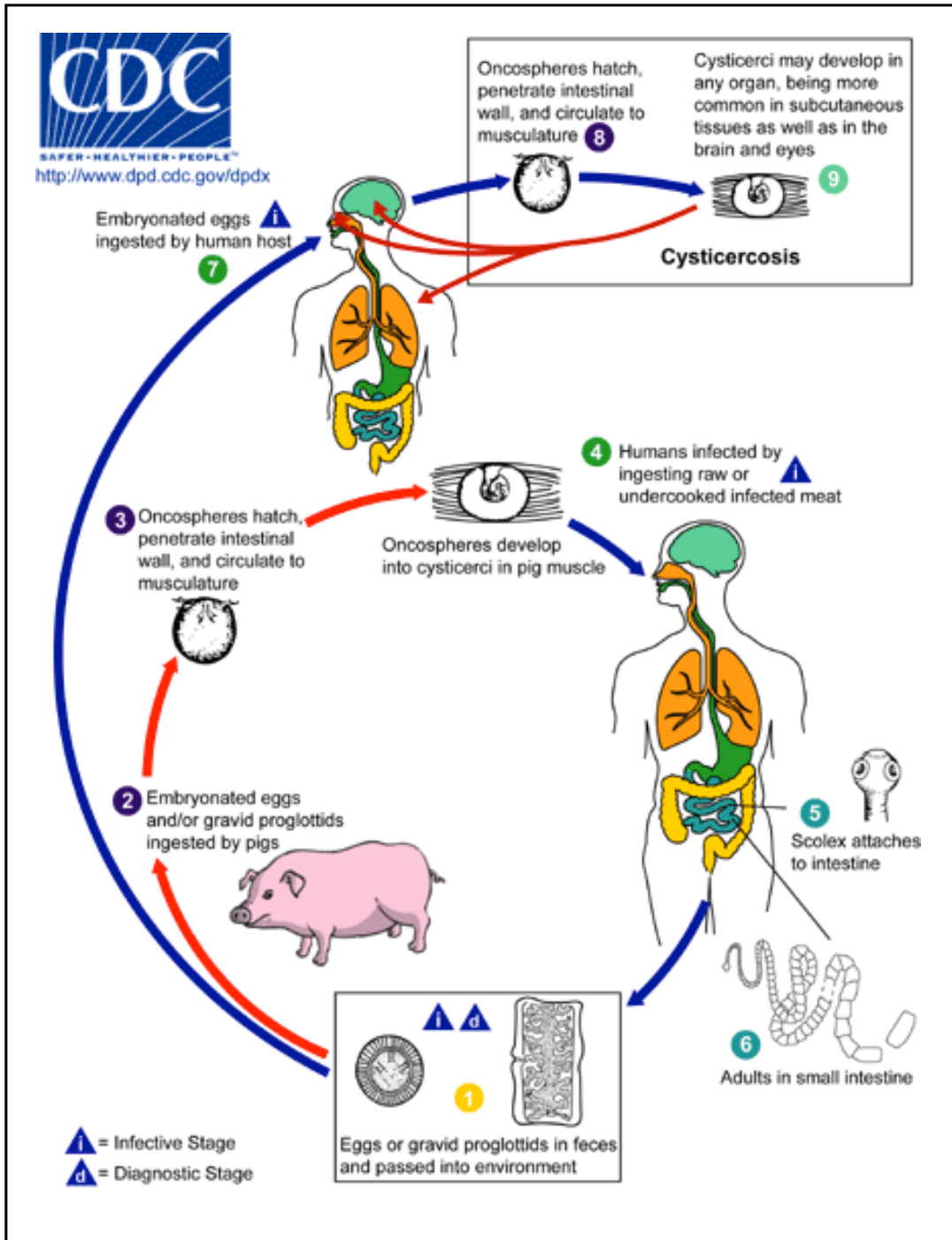
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How humans are infected with Cysticercosis



Student MRI Project Budget		
Item	Price	Total
Costs for the school	Hire 3 buses	750*3*6=13,500 USD (3 drivers)
	Hotels	15*65*4=3,900 USD
	Meals	15*65*6=5,850 USD
	MRI brain scans	150*56=8,400 USD (56 students)
	Allowance for teachers	45*6*6=1,620 USD (6 teachers)
Costs for the local CDC	Hotels and meals	45*4*5=900 USD
	Allowance for staff	45*4*6=1,080 USD
Costs for Sichuan CDC	Air tickets	290 USD*2=580 USD
	Hotels and meals	45*2*3=270 USD
	Allowance for staff	75*2*4=600 USD
Project Total		36,700 USD