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**Human and porcine neurocysticercosis: differences in the distribution and developmental stages of cysticerci.**

*Sáenz, B., J. Ramírez, A. Aluja, A. Escobar, G. Fragoso, J. Morales, R. Pérez-Tamayo, F. Rosetti, C. Larralde, et al. (2008)*

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## Abstract

**Objective** To describe and compare the clinical impacts of neurocysticercosis (NC) caused by *Taenia solium* in humans and pigs.

**Methods** Comparative study of the brains of 16 asymptomatic pigs and 35 human NC cases (15 asymptomatic and 20 symptomatic).

**Results** In humans, cysticerci were more frequently located in the ventricles and subarachnoid space at the base of the brain (11.8%vs. 1.6%;  $P = 0.001$  and 25.9%vs. 0%;  $P < 0.0001$ , respectively) while in pigs, cysticerci were more frequently found in the parenchyma (44.4%vs. 7.6%;  $P < 0.0001$ ). In human brains, 75.9% of the cysticerci were calcified, while in pigs all cysticerci were in the vesicular stage.

**Conclusion** The duration of infection and the host-parasite relationship (such as immune reactivity and brain haemodynamics) differ between humans and pigs. This may account for the different distribution and stage of the cysticerci among humans and pigs.

**Keywords:**

pigs; taenia; health.

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