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## ***Entamoeba coli***

### **Introduction**

*Entamoeba coli* is a non-pathogenic amoeba with world wide distribution. Its life cycle is similar to that of *E. histolytica* but it does not have an invasive stage and do not ingest red blood cells.

### **Morphology of Cysts**

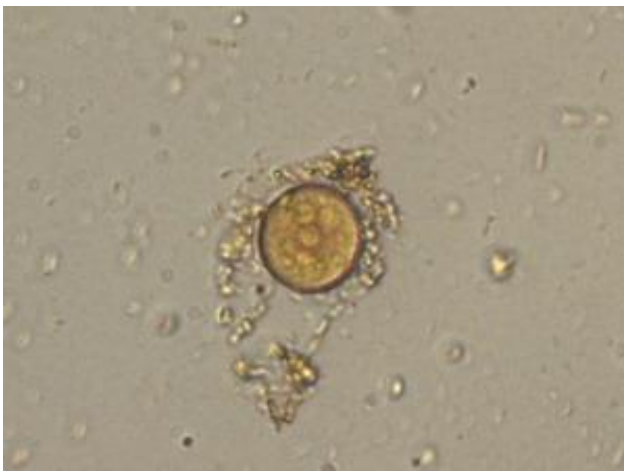
Cysts of *E. coli* are 15 - 30 $\mu$  in diameter and contain 1 - 8 nuclei. Chromatoid bodies are not frequently seen but when present they are usually splinter-like with pointed ends. Glycogen is usually diffuse but in young cysts is occasionally found as a well defined mass which stains reddish brown with iodine.

### **Morphology of Trophozoite**

The trophozoite is larger than that of *E. histolytica* ranging from 15-50 $\mu$  in diameter. It exhibits blunt pseudopodia with sluggish movement. A permanently stained preparation shows a nucleus with a moderately large eccentric karyosome with the chromatin clumped on the nuclear membrane. The cytoplasm appears granular containing vacuoles with ingested bacteria and other food particles.

### **Laboratory Diagnosis**

Laboratory diagnosis is made by finding the characteristic cysts in an iodine stained, formol-ether concentration method or by detecting the characteristic trophozoites in a wet preparation or a permanent stained preparation.



A cyst of *Entamoeba coli*