# Tunisian Farmer Dies from Tapeworm Egg Infestation Leading to Liver Rupture



A 33-year-old female farmer from Tunisia experienced a fatal liver rupture after a parasitic worm laid eggs inside her abdomen. This case, reported in a US medical journal, highlights the risks posed by Echinococcus granulosus, a tapeworm that triggers Hydatid disease, also known as cystic echinococcosis.

The woman visited the emergency room due to severe stomach cramps, fever, and jaundice. Blood tests indicated high inflammatory markers, suggesting liver damage. Scans revealed a cyst in her bile duct, which had ruptured. The parasite, commonly found in livestock, infects humans who work closely with animals such as sheep, cattle, pigs, and dogs.

Doctors performed surgery to remove the cyst and drain excess bile. The patient spent 15 days in the hospital, receiving fluids and antibiotics, and was discharged with additional antibiotics. A six-month follow-up showed no further complications.

Hydatid disease affects millions, primarily in rural areas of Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America. If untreated, the infection can be deadly within 10 to 15 years.

This case draws parallels to Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s experience in 2010. Kennedy suffered from memory loss and brain fog due to a parasitic infection, suspected to be neurocysticercosis from the pork tapeworm Taenia solium, possibly contracted during a trip to South America.

The Tunisian case was published in the American Journal of Case Reports.