

# Young woman with chronic diarrhea

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**Figure 1:** Dwarf tape worms (*Hymenolepis nana*) in proximal jejunum among normal appearing villi

**Capsule endoscopy image of the proximal small intestine in a patient with chronic diarrhea.**

**What is the diagnosis?**

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### Answer

An adolescent female who presented with complaint of chronic watery diarrhea. General and systemic physical examination was normal. On capsule endoscopy, the proximal small intestine was infested with large number of dwarf tapeworms. Dedicated, repeated stool examination showed eggs of *Hymenolepis nana* in one of the three stool examination reports. She improved with a single dose of praziquantel 25 mg/kg body weight.

*H. nana* or dwarf tapeworm is one of the most common cestode parasitizing human species and is common in developed as well as developing countries. *H. nana* rarely cause symptom. Infestation with more than 2000 worms can cause enteritis, abdominal pain, diarrhea, loss of appetite. Stool examinations neither indicate the degree of infestation nor differentiate a symptomatic from silent infestation. Thus, empirical therapy in suspected cases may be optimal. Praziquantel is the treatment of choice but is not a widely prescribed antihelminthic in Indian subcontinent.