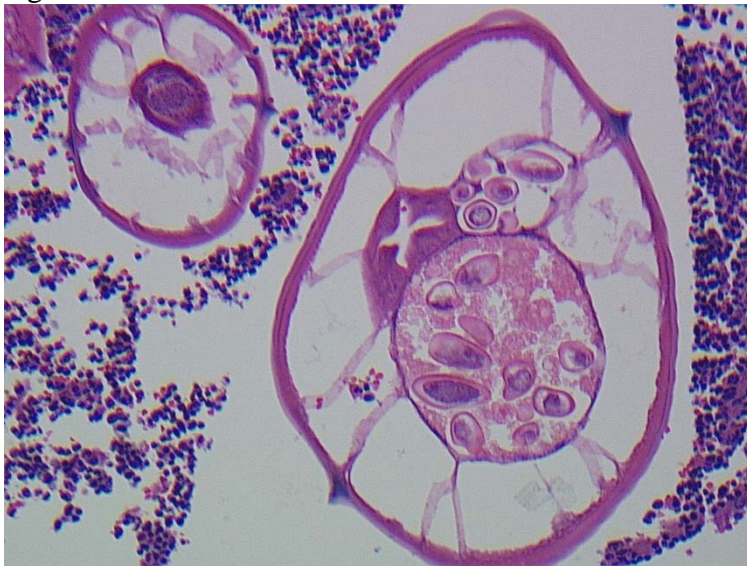


Question 6 – Week of September 10

18 year old man from Nicaragua was admitted with fever and right lower quadrant abdominal pain. He was diagnosed with acute appendicitis. An appendectomy was performed. On a histological section of the appendix, a cross- section of what parasite is represented in figure 1?

- A. *Ascaris lumbricoides*
- B. *Enterobius vermicularis*
- C. *Necator americanus*
- D. *Trichuris trichura*
- E. *Trichinella spiralis*

Figure 1:



(Courtesy of Julian Perez, MD Gastroenterology department, Ronald Miick, MD Pathology department. Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia)

Answer: B

Enterobius vermicularis (pinworms) are sometimes found in the appendix. Figure 1 is a cross-section of a female worm, and the cross-sections of the uterus can be seen to contain eggs. The eggs are elongated and ovoid, distinctly compressed laterally, and flattened on one side. Note the lateral ala on the cuticle, which are an important diagnostic characteristic

References:

1. Ramezani MA, Dehghani MR. Relationship between *Enterobius vermicularis* and the incidence of acute appendicitis. *Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health*. Jan 2007;38(1):20-3.
2. CDC. Parasitic disease information. Division of parasitic diseases. Pinworm Infection. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/NCIDOD/dpd/parasites/pinworm/factsht_pinworm.htm.