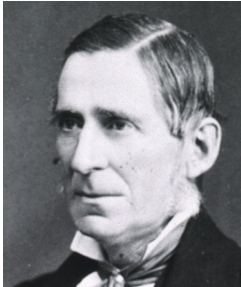


## *Trichinella spiralis* [tri·kuh·neh'·luh spr·a'·luhs]

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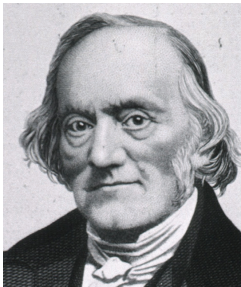
*Trichinella* is derived from the Greek words *trichos* (hair) and *ella* (diminutive); *spiralis* means spiral. In 1835, Richard Owen (1804–1892) and James Paget (1814–1899) described a spiral worm (*Trichina spiralis*)-lined sandy diaphragm of a cadaver. In 1895, Alcide Railliet (1852–1930) renamed it as *Trichinella spiralis* because *Trichina* was attributed to an insect in 1830. In 1859, Rudolf Virchow (1821–1902) described the life cycle. The genus includes many distinct spe-



**Figure 1.** Sir James Paget (January 11, 1814–December 30, 1899), English surgeon and pathologist who observed a spiral encysted nematode in a cadaver. Source: <http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101425853>

cies, several genotypes, and encapsulated and non-encapsulated clades based on the presence/absence of a collagen capsule.

The smallest, viviparous nematode or pig parasite has sylvatic and domestic cycles and

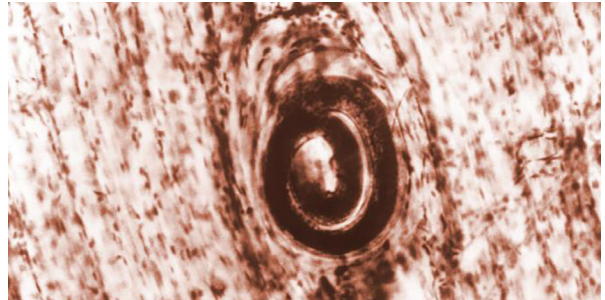


**Figure 2.** Sir Richard Owen (July 20, 1804–December 18, 1892), English biologist, comparative anatomist, and paleontologist who did not share the credit of discovery of *Trichina spiralis* with Paget. Source: <http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101424684>.



**Figure 3.** Photomicrograph of an intestinal mucosa tissue specimen showing a *Trichinella spiralis* parasitic nematode, which had burrowed itself into the columnar epithelial intestinal lining, in a case of trichinosis. Source: CDC/Dr. Robert Kaiser (<https://phil.cdc.gov/Details.aspx?pid=14931>).

causes trichinellosis or trichinosis. Transmission occurs through the consumption of meat infected with pathogenic cysts, encasing larvae. Human-to-human transmission has not been reported.



**Figure 4.** Photomicrograph showing a *Trichinella spiralis* cyst that was embedded in a muscle tissue specimen, in a case of trichinellosis, acquired by ingesting meat containing cysts (encysted larvae) of *Trichinella* sp. Source: CDC/Dr. Irving Kagan (<https://phil.cdc.gov/Details.aspx?pid=10180>).

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