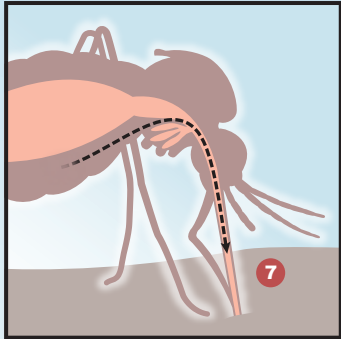


The Life Cycle of Lymphatic Filariasis

MOSQUITO STAGES

- 7** Larvae migrate to a mosquito's head and proboscis.



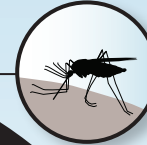
- 8** An infected mosquito continues the cycle.



HUMAN STAGES

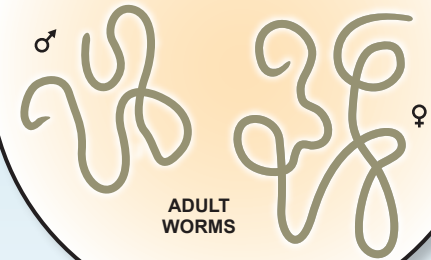
- 1** An infected mosquito deposits larvae on the skin while biting, and the larvae enter the wound.

An infected mosquito starts the cycle

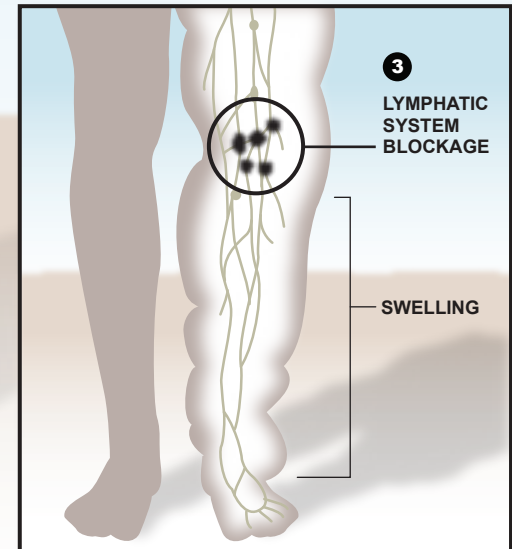


2

Larvae migrate to vessels and nodes of the lymphatic system, where they develop into thread-like adult worms.



- 3** Adult worms, which typically live five to seven years, damage the lymphatic system, causing infections that result in blockages, swelling, and fevers.



- 4** Fertilized female worms release embryonic offspring, called microfilariae, that enter the blood stream. They circulate at night, when mosquitoes bite, in blood vessels near the skin.

BLOOD STREAM

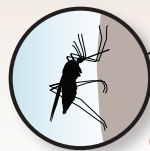
LYMPH NODES AND VESSELS

In several stages, inside a mosquito's midgut, microfilariae develop into infectious larvae.

L3 LARVAE

L1 LARVAE

6



Another mosquito becomes infected, continuing the cycle

- 5** A mosquito, feeding on the blood of an infected person, ingests microfilariae, becoming infected.