Amebiasis is a disease caused by a parasite, *Entamoeba histolytica*. Infection is acquired by swallowing *E. histolytica* cysts from contaminated surfaces, fingers, water, or food.

Symptoms of amebiasis range from mild diarrhea to severe amebic dysentery with fever and bloody stools; *E. histolytica* can rarely cause liver abscesses.

Persons at risk for amebiasis include those who have traveled to tropical places with poor sanitary conditions, and immigrants from tropical countries with poor sanitation.