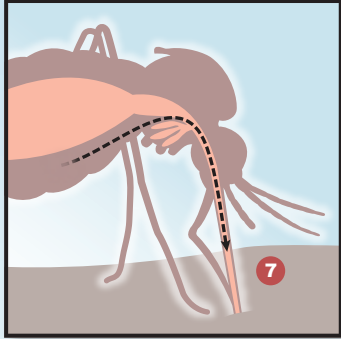


# The Life Cycle of Lymphatic Filariasis

## MOSQUITO STAGES

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



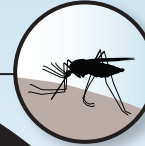
**8** An infected mosquito continues the cycle.



## HUMAN STAGES

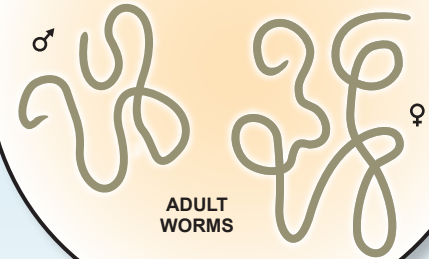
**1** An infected mosquito deposits larvae on the skin while biting, and the larvae enter the wound.

**An infected mosquito starts the cycle**

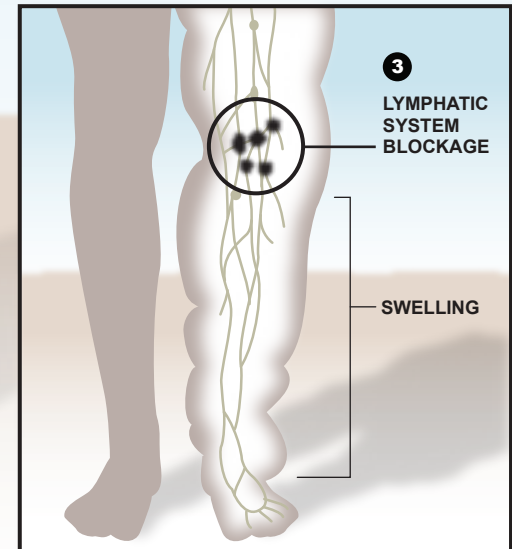


**2**

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.



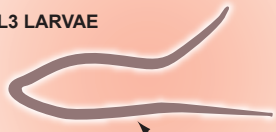
**4** Fertilized female worms release embryonic offspring, called microfilariae, that enter the blood stream. They circulate at night, when mosquitoes bite, in blood vessels near the skin.

**BLOOD STREAM**

**LYMPH NODES AND VESSELS**

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

**L3 LARVAE**



**L1 LARVAE**



**Another mosquito becomes infected, continuing the cycle**

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