

Difference Between Worms and Mucus in Stool

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Key Difference - Worms vs Mucus in Stool

Stools could be considered as a diagnostic substance that could be used to identify different disease conditions that are present in the body. Stools mainly consist of indigested waste materials along with different metabolic waste products. Mucus and worms in stools indicate different diseases present within the body. **Mucus appears in stool as jelly-like substance in yellow or white color whilst worms appear in stool as small pieces of white cotton thread.** This is the **key difference** between Worms and Mucus in Stool.

What are Worms in Stool?

Worms appear in stools similar to small pieces of white cotton thread. Mostly pinworms or threadworms appear in stools which indicates the occurrence of the disease condition known as enterobiasis or oxyuriasis. Enterobiasis is a highly contagious disease condition. It is hard to observe the occurrence of worms in stools since they appear in minute structures. Humans are prone to this disease condition in which they get infected by pinworms unintentionally through ingestion or inhalation. Pinworm life cycle occurs once the ingestion is completed.

Once incorporated into the body, the pinworm eggs remain inside the intestine until the eggs hatch and mature. Once they get mature, female pinworms translocate into the colon and move out from the body along with stools. The male pin worm always remains in the intestine without moving out from the body with the fecal matter. Since female worms move across the colon and into the anus, they lay eggs in the surrounding anal tissue. This cause itchiness in the area of the anus which is a common symptom of this disease condition. Individuals with pinworm infection don't always develop symptoms. But there is a common set of symptoms which indicates the presence of the disease condition.



Figure 01: Worms in Stool

One major symptom is the presence of pinworms in stools and along with that, itchiness of the anal area, developments of rash and skin irritations in the anal area and the presence of pinworms and eggs in the surrounding area of the anus. Pinworm infection could be treated with oral medication. Since the probability of the passing of pinworms is high, individuals of the same household need to obtain the treatment. Most common oral medication that is provided for pinworm infection is mebendazole, albendazole, and pyrantel pamoate.

What is Mucus in Stool?

The presence of mucus in stool is a normal condition. But this condition could be severe according to the type and the amount of mucus present in stool. Mucus appears in stools as jelly-like substances in white or yellowish color. Mucus involves the protection of different regions of the body which include the gastrointestinal tract, sinuses, lungs, and throat. Since its a viscous compound it coats the intestinal and colon linings and protects the structures by acting as a lubricant against the stomach acids and bowel irritation.

Also, mucus assists in the passing of food through the esophagus easily and across the mucous membranes. Thereby, mucus involves different processes of the human body. But excess mucus in stools indicates a possible disease condition that is present in the body. Excess mucus is normally produced when the body undergoes an inflammatory condition. This also indicates that the body is healing by itself.

Abnormalities of the mucus in stools can be due to many reasons such as higher amounts of mucus than normal levels, color changes in the appearance of mucus. With the excess of mucus different conditions of the body may also arise that will cause abdominal pain, bloating, rectal bleeding, fever, abdominal cramping and change in bowel movement. Abnormal levels of mucus in stool may be a symptom of a disease condition known as Irritable Bowel Syndrome. This disease condition

occurs predominantly in females and affects the large intestine and colon. This cause the production of excess mucus with different symptoms similar to the ones mentioned above.

What is the Similarity Between Worms and Mucus in Stool?

- Both indicate the presence of a disease condition.

What is the Difference Between Worms and Mucus in Stool?

Worms vs Mucus in Stool	
Disease-causing organisms or parasites in the stool is known as worms in stool.	A jelly-like substance in the stool is known as mucus in stool.
Appearance	
Worms appear similar to small pieces of white cotton thread in stools.	Mucus appears as jelly-like substances in white or yellowish color in stools.
Disease	
Enterobiasis is caused by worms.	Irritable Bowel Syndrome is caused by excess mucus.

Summary - Worms vs Mucus in Stool

Stools considered as a diagnostic substance that could be used to identify different disease conditions that are present in the body. Worms appear in stools similar to small pieces of white cotton thread. Mostly pinworms or threadworms appear in stools which indicates the occurrence of the disease condition known as enterobiasis or oxyuriasis. Mucus appears in stools as jelly-like substances in white or yellowish color. This indicates the presence of irritable bowel syndrome. This is the difference between worms and mucus in stool.

Reference:

1. "Why Is There Mucus in My Stool?" Healthline, Healthline Media. [Available here](#)
2. "Pinworm Infection: Symptoms, Diagnosis & Prevention." Healthline, Healthline Media. [Available here](#)

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