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The role of the urologist in the treatment and elimination of lymphatic filariasis worldwide

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Introduction

In 1997, the WHO passed a resolution calling for the global elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF) as a public health problem [1–3]. Currently the disease is thought to affect over 120 million people in over 80 countries in five endemic regions, i.e. South-east Asia, Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Pacific, and the

Biology

Lymphatic filariasis is the result of infection by the adult parasites and microfilariae of *W. bancrofti* or *B. malayi*. The adult female *W. bancrofti* is a pale, threadlike nematode 6–10 cm long and 0.2 mm wide. The male is smaller, at 4–6 cm long and 0.1 mm wide [8].

Worldwide, at least 90% of human disease caused by