

Images in Infectious Diseases

Cell Death by *Toxoplasma gondii*

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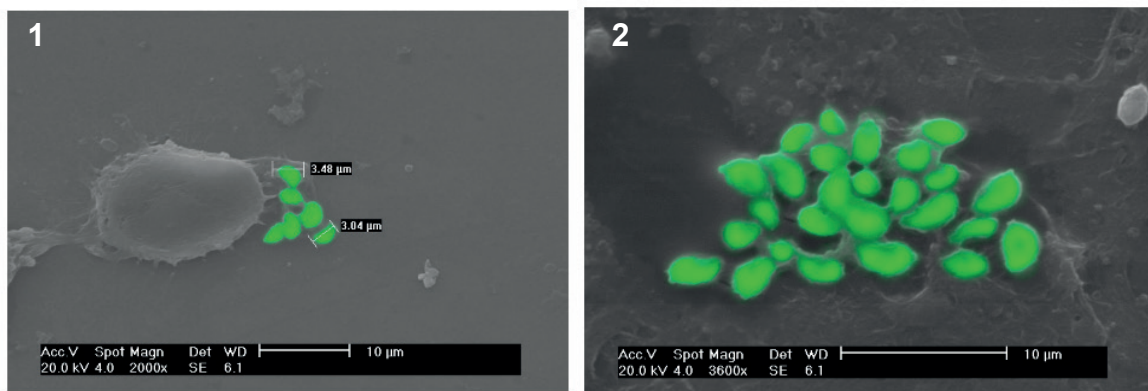


FIGURE 1: *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites around a Hela cell after the cell culture is infected. Scanning electron microscopic image.

FIGURE 2: *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites after death of the infected Hela cell, approximately 20 h after infection. Scanning electron microscopic image.

Toxoplasma gondii is a dangerous intracellular parasite that can cause toxoplasmosis, a disease that has several clinical manifestations¹. One explanation for its diverse clinical features is the wide variability in parasite strains across the globe². Here, we used scanning electron microscopy to reveal the instant when a group of parasites kills a cell. These parasites can infect any nucleated cell³ and a similar mechanism occurs in human cells. In **Figure 1**, *T. gondii* tachyzoites are observed immediately after infection in the HeLa cell culture. In the image, the small size of the parasites can be compared to the cell that will be parasitized. In **Figure 2**, approximately 20 h after infection, the dead cell can be seen owing to the remarkable reproductive capacity and pathogenicity of this parasite.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

CBSO: performed the maintenance of cells and parasites and the microscopy procedure; **ILODB:** performed image processing; **VFAN:** offered the framework for conducting the experiments.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest during the development of this research.

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