

## Toxoplasma gondii TORCH

*Toxoplasma gondii* is a parasitic protozoa that causes the disease toxoplasmosis. This disease is usually minor and self-limiting in the immunocompetent but can cause serious disease in the immunocompromised. It is also a cause of congenital TORCH infections in a fetus whose mother contracts the disease during pregnancy due to the ability to cross the placenta. Mothers who contract the disease are often asymptomatic and rarely may have lymphadenopathy. Nonspecific signs common to many TORCH infections include hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, and thrombocytopenia. Common signs in infants with congenital infection of *Toxoplasma gondii* include intrauterine growth retardation, hepatosplenomegaly, deafness, basal ganglia calcifications, chorioretinitis, and hydrocephalus.



PLAY PICMONIC

### Signs and Symptoms

#### Congenital TORCH Infection

##### Torch

*Toxoplasma gondii* is a cause of congenital TORCH infections in a fetus whose mother contracts disease during pregnancy due to the ability to cross the placenta.

#### Mom Usually Asymptomatic

##### Happy Pregnant-lady

Mothers who contract the disease are usually asymptomatic.

#### Rarely Lymphadenopathy

##### Lymph-lime-add (+)

Mothers who contract the disease are usually asymptomatic and rarely can have swelling of the lymph nodes.

#### Nonspecific TORCH Signs

##### Yellow Torch made of liver and trombone-peanut

Nonspecific signs common to many torch infections include hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, and thrombocytopenia.

#### Intrauterine Growth Retardation

##### In utero babies in C-clamp and Read-tarred Book

Intrauterine growth retardation is defined as poor growth of a fetus while in the mother's womb during pregnancy. Intrauterine growth retardation is a common finding in infants with TORCH infections.

#### Hepatosplenomegaly

##### Liver-and-spleen-balloons

Hepatosplenomegaly is enlargement of the liver and spleen, and is a common finding in infants with TORCH infections.

#### Deafness

##### Headphones

Congenital hearing loss is commonly seen in congenital toxoplasmosis.

#### Chorioretinitis

##### Oreo-red-tin-eyes

Chorioretinitis is inflammation of the choroid and retina of the eye, causing symptoms of floating black spots, blurry vision, and pain in the eye. Chorioretinitis is commonly seen in congenital toxoplasmosis.

## **Hydrocephalus**

### **Hydras**

Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of CSF in the brain that can cause increased intracranial pressure inside the skull. It is a common finding in infants with congenital toxoplasmosis.

## **Diagnosis**

### **Calcifications**

#### **Calcified-cow**

With congenital toxoplasmosis, infants have scattered calcifications in the white matter, basal ganglia and cortex.