

# Tapeworms inside 'brains of millions'

MILLIONS of people are living with the effects of having tapeworms in their brain, according to scientists.

Sufferers of headaches, eye problems, meningitis, epilepsy and dementia may all have the parasites in their brain.

The tapeworms, which live in pigs but enter human beings through undercooked pork, lead to cysts which cause a disease called neurocysticercosis to attack

by **TARIQ TAHIR**

the brain and central nervous system.

Dr Theodore Nash, chief of the gastrointestinal parasites section of the US National Institutes of Health, said. 'Minimally, there are 5million cases of epilepsy from neurocysticercosis.'

Before the tapeworm become adults they spend time as larvae in the large cysts. When the

body's immune system attacks the cyst this can cause the surrounding brain tissue to swell.

About 50million people globally are hit by the disease, with sub-Saharan Africa, India and east Asia areas where it is prevalent.

Prof Peter Chiodini, head of the Health Protection Agency's parasitology reference laboratory, said: 'We diagnose around two cases of neurocysticercosis a month in the UK.'

## A VERY GOOD REASON TO AVOID PORK PRODUCTS

**And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.**

**Lev. 11 :7**