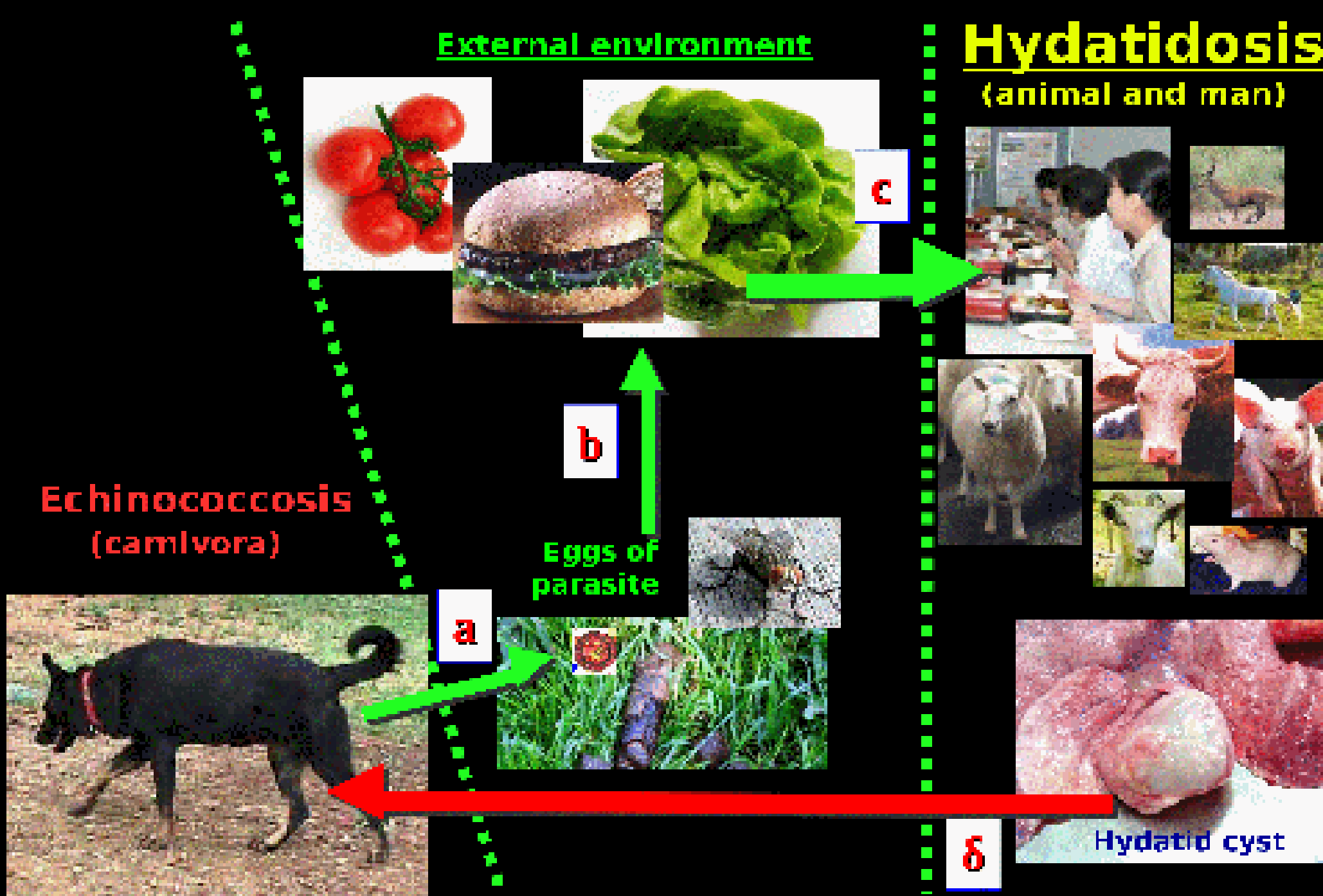


Echinococcosis–Hydatidosis in the Greece

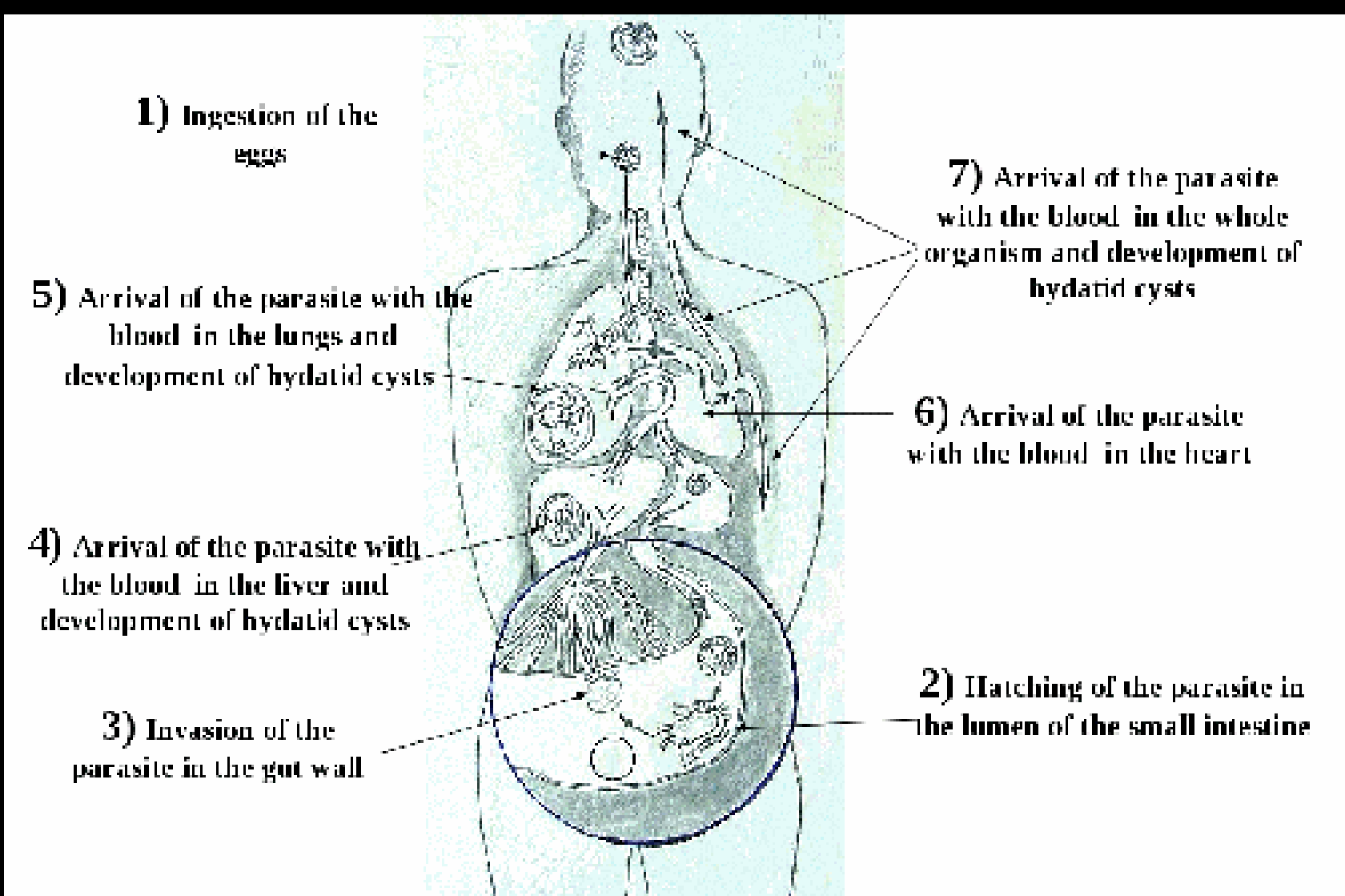
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In Greece, 9.1% of the dogs were found to be infected by the cestode parasite *Echinococcus granulosus* (echinococcosis), while 15.4-100% of ruminants, 9.3% of swine e.t.c. were infected with hydatid cysts (hydatidosis). Human infection with hydatid cysts was found to have a mean annual rate of 3.1-4.3 per 100.000 inhabitants.

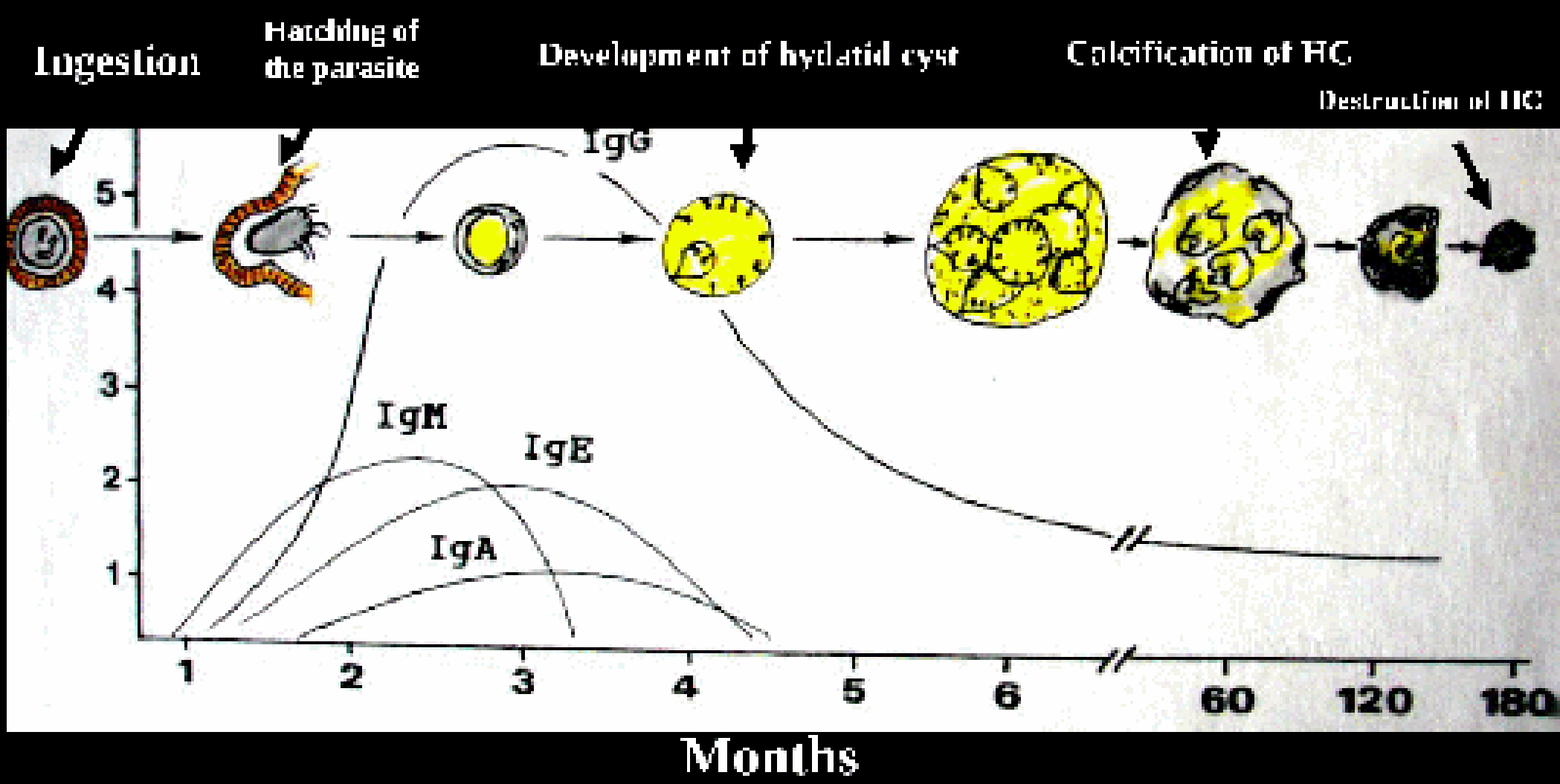
The infectious eggs of the parasite are passed into the enviroment in the stool of the infected dogs.



Humans and animals are infected by ingesting the *E.granulosus*-eggs from the soil, in raw and unwashed vegetables, fruits e.t.c. (infected dogs can not directly infect humans and animals).



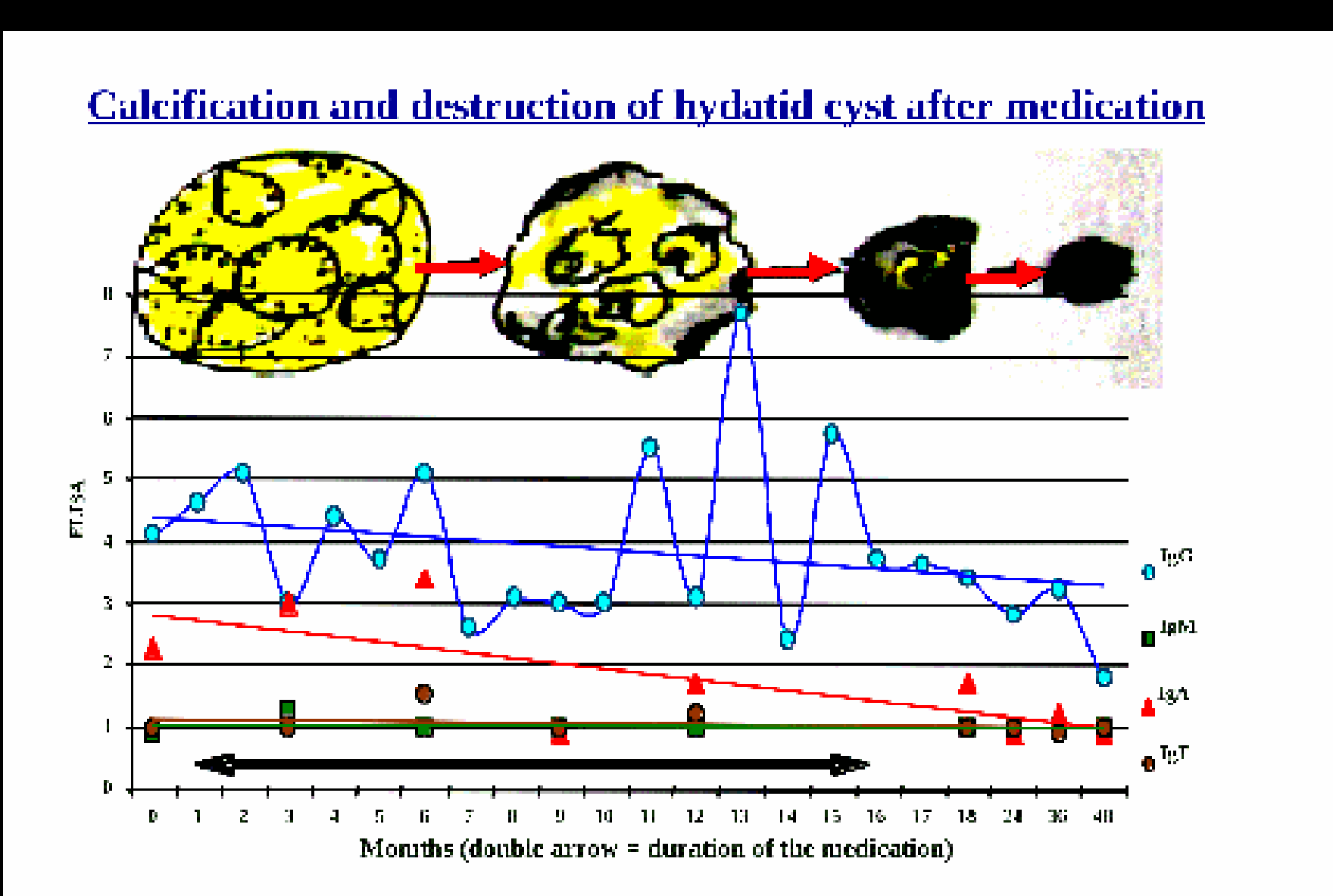
In hydatidosis (humans and animals - intermediate hosts) and echinococcosis (dog, carnivores - definitive hosts) pathology and symptomatology are often overlooked (hydatidosis is a self-curable disease).



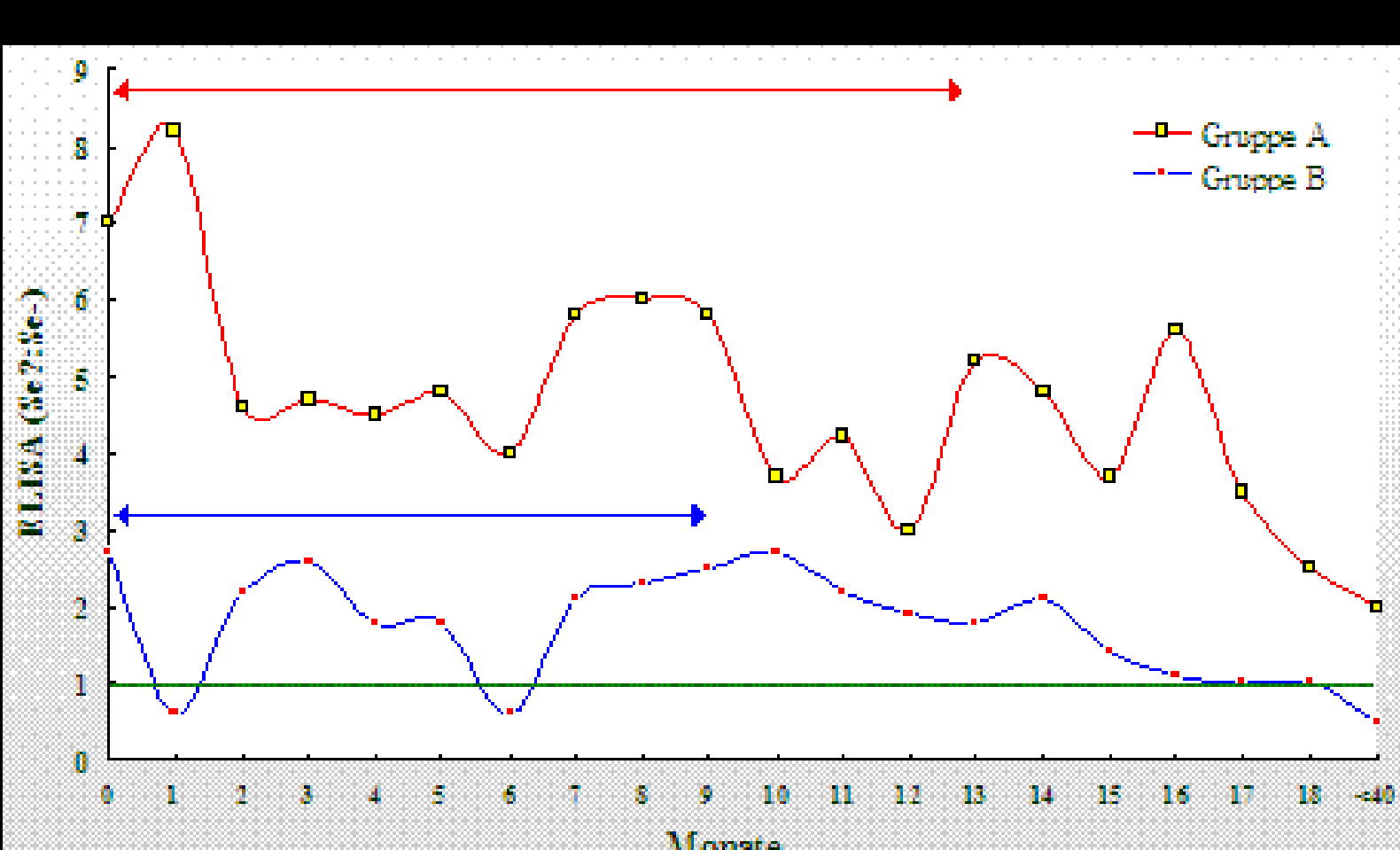
Antibody production during the development of the hydatid cyst (HC)

Diagnosis of hydatidosis can be made through immunological techniques, sonography, radiological and scanning techniques, while diagnosis of echinococcosis can be made through fecal examination. Detection of hydatid cyst is usually an “accidental finding”.

The cyst can be destructed by using **albendazole** (10 mg/Kg/day for 30 day's cycles) and praziquantel (50 mg/Kg/day for 7 days and then, 50 mg/Kg/week for 2 months). The observation of calcified cysts and the detection of low level of specific IgG, IgM, IgE and IgA are certain indications of the sufficient activation of the host.



In 26 infected individuals in Greece was found the constraction in the 40.6% of the cysts and the calcification in the 59.4% of the cysts 5 to 18 months after the treatment.



Levels of specifiic IgG in 15 operated (group A) and 11 non-operated patients after chemotherapy against hydatidosis (arrows, duration of chemotherapy).

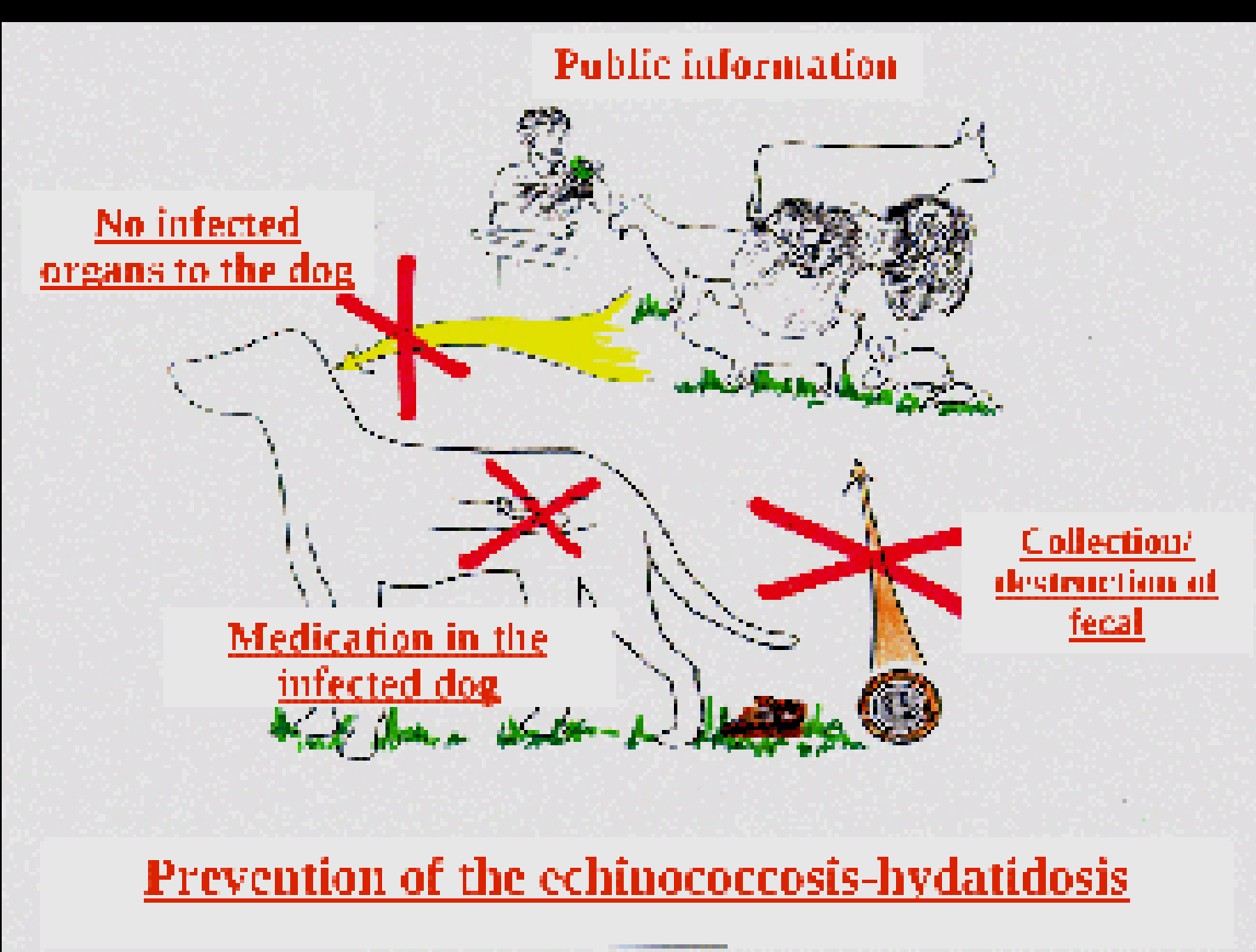
Hydatidosis

Hydatidosis is a self-curable disease (during 5-20 years after the infection).

Hydatid cysts are destructed 4-14 months after medication.

Surgery causes proliferation of hydatid cysts.

In animals that are intermediate hosts of the parasite, treatment is not neccecery (hydatidosis is a self-curable disease), while in dogs (definitive host) praziquantel, bunamidine hydrochloride, nitroscanate e.t.c. can be used.



To prevent the infection of the intermediate hosts, vegetables, fruits e.t.c. should be thoroughly washed. Also, proper hygiene (hand washing e.t.c.) should be practiced regularly, shepherd dogs must be treated every 30-35 days and hunting dogs must be treated during hunting period. When dogs are not fed raw livers and lungs containing hydatid cysts, they can neither become infected nor infect others through spread of the parasite.