Opisthorchis viverrini

Opisthorchis viverrini is a liver fluke that is endemic to Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. It is a parasite of various species of fish-eating mammals, including humans, dogs, and cats. The fluke attaches itself to the bile ducts of its host, causing inflammation, metaplasia of goblet cells, and epithelial changes. These changes can lead to the development of cholangiocarcinoma, a type of liver cancer. The prevalence of O. viverrini varies across different regions, with the highest incidence being in northern Thailand. The disease can be transmitted through the consumption of raw or undercooked fish that is infected with the fluke's larvae. There is no approved treatment for the disease, and it is controlled through the implementation of public health measures such as improving hygiene practices, intensifying fish inspection, and implementing fish farming practices. The control of O. viverrini is crucial in reducing the risk of cholangiocarcinoma and improving public health in affected areas.