Cycle of *Trypanosoma cruzi*

**Triatomine bug takes a blood meal**
(passes metacyclic trypomastigotes in feces, trypomastigotes enter bite wound or mucosal membranes, such as the conjunctiva)

**Infected stage**

**Triatomine Bug Stages**

- Epimastigotes in midgut
- Multiply in midgut
- Metacyclic trypomastigotes in hindgut
- Triatomine bug takes a blood meal (trypomastigotes ingested)

**Human Stages**

- Amastigotes multiply by binary fission in cells of infected tissues.
- Trypomastigotes can infect other cells and transform into intracellular amastigotes in new infection sites. Clinical manifestations can result from this infective cycle.

**Diagnostic stage**

- Intracellular amastigotes transform into trypomastigotes, then burst out of the cell and enter the bloodstream.
- Metacyclic trypomastigotes penetrate various cells at bite wound site. Inside cells they transform into amastigotes.