SUMMARY

• Tropical pulmonary eosinophilia (TPE) is an asthma-like disease caused by a hyperactive immunological response to ‘human’ filariae, usually *Wuchereria bancrofti* or *Brugia malayi*.

• TPE is found commonly in India and in parts of West Africa. The disease usually occurs in children and young adults.

• Patients present with a short history of cough, wheeze and shortness of breath, worse at night and often preceded or accompanied by malaise and low-grade fever.

• Diagnosis is based on the high eosinophilia with high filarial antibody titres and the response to treatment.

• TPE may remit spontaneously or symptomatic response usually occurs within days of starting treatment with diethylcarbamazine. Albendazole may be added in refractory cases, or doxycycline followed by ivermectin.