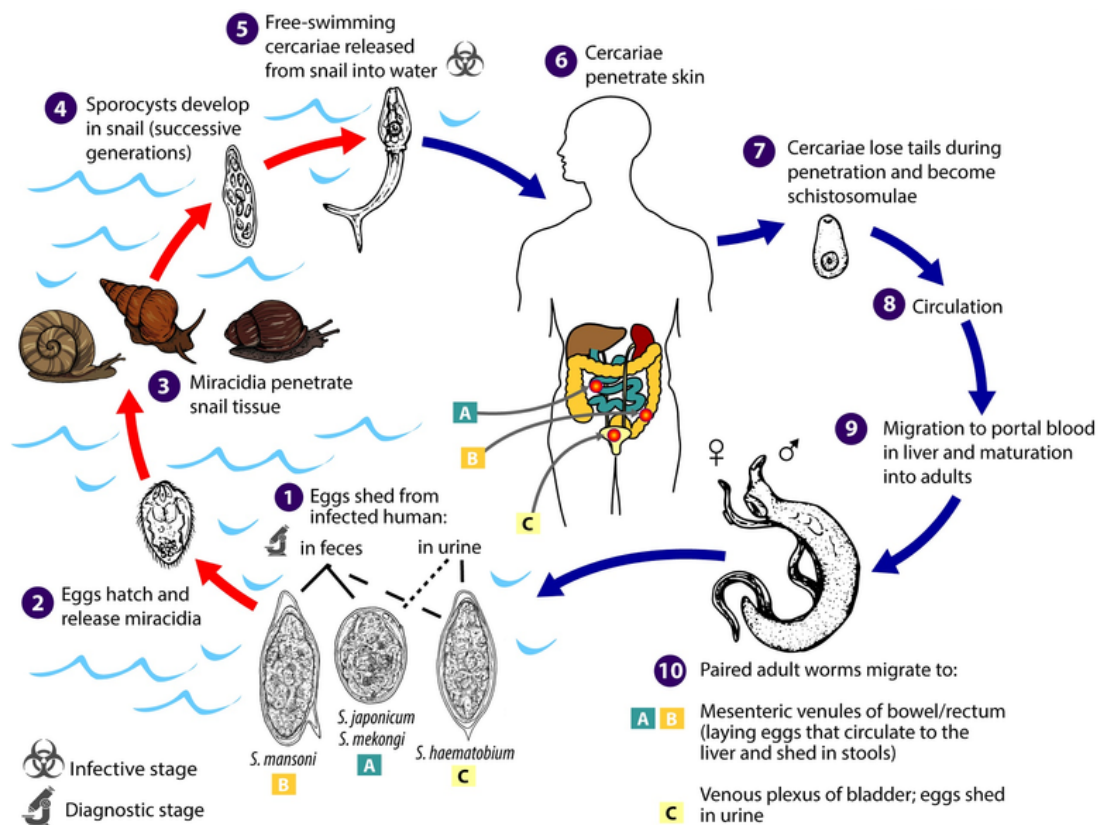


Schistosomiasis is an acute and chronic disease caused by parasitic worms.

People are infected during routine agricultural, domestic, occupational, and recreational activities, which expose them to infested water. Lack of hygiene and certain play habits of school-aged children such as swimming or fishing in infested water make them especially vulnerable to infection. **Schistosomiasis** control focuses on reducing disease through periodic, large-scale population treatment with praziquantel; a more comprehensive approach including potable water, adequate sanitation, and snail control would also reduce transmission. Estimates show that at least 236.6 million people required preventive treatment for **schistosomiasis** in 2019, out of which more than 105.4 million people were reported to have been treated.



Schistosomiasis is diagnosed through the detection of parasite eggs in stool or urine specimens. Antibodies and/or antigens detected in blood or urine samples are also indications of infection. **PCR Techniques, Elisa tests and Indirect Immunofluorescence slides.**

Available from DTS Sep Sci:

- **BMK192** Bilharzia Elisa Test kit (IgM) – 192 Screen test
- **BEK192** Bilharzia Elisa Test kit (IgG) – 192 Screen test
- **SM1011** Cercaria FAT slide pack - Indirect Immunofluorescence 100 tests
- **SMK103** Cercaria FAT Kit (IgG, IgM, IgA) - Indirect Immunofluorescence 100 tests
- **SMK111** Cercaria FAT Kit (IgG) - Indirect Immunofluorescence 100 tests
- **SMK112** Cercaria FAT Kit (IgM) - Indirect Immunofluorescence 100 tests
- **SMK113** Cercaria FAT Kit (IgA) - Indirect Immunofluorescence 100 tests

Infection and transmission

People become infected when larval forms of the parasite, released by freshwater snails – penetrate the skin during contact with infested water. Transmission occurs when people suffering from schistosomiasis contaminate freshwater sources with their excreta containing parasite eggs, which hatch in water. In the body, the larvae develop into adult schistosomes. Adult worms live in the blood vessels where the females release eggs. Some of the eggs are passed out of the body in faeces or urine to continue the parasite’s lifecycle. Eggs become trapped in body tissues, causing immune reactions and progressive damage to organs.

Symptoms

1. Fever.
2. Abdominal pain (liver/spleen area)
3. Bloody diarrhea or blood in the stools or urine.
4. Cough.
5. Malaise.
6. Headache.
7. Rash.
8. Body aches.

Epidemiology

Schistosomiasis is prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas, especially in poor communities without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. It is estimated that at least 90% of those requiring treatment for schistosomiasis live in Africa.

There are two major forms of schistosomiasis – **intestinal and urogenital** – caused by 5 main species of blood fluke.