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Making schisto history

How we are fighting schistosomiasis –
for more than 15 years!



About Schistosomiasis



Schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, is caused by parasitic **flatworms** called schistosomes and is spread through direct contact with contaminated fresh water sources.



This acute and chronic parasitic disease is one of the 20 **neglected tropical diseases** (NTDs) prioritized by the World Health Organization (WHO).



It infects up to **240 Million people** worldwide and can cause serious health conditions, potentially leading to learning disabilities, anemia, malnutrition, and bladder cancer in adult life as well as an increased risk of contracting HIV for women.



>90%
of the estimated
cases are found
in sub-Saharan
Africa.



Up to
200,000 people
in sub-Saharan Africa
die every year as a result
of this infectious
disease.

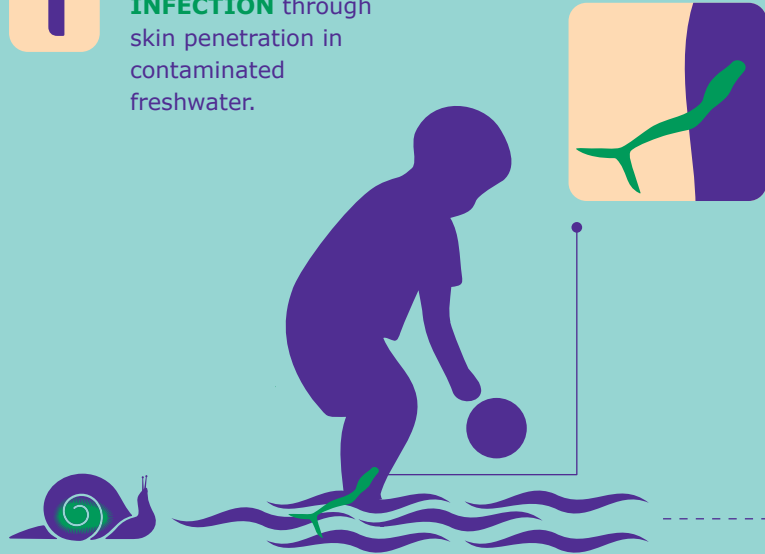


It is associated with
poverty,
inadequate sanitation
and a lack of hygiene. The
infection rate is particularly
high among school-aged
children and domestic and
agricultural workers.

Schistosomiasis Lifecycle

1

Day 0:
INFECTION through skin penetration in contaminated freshwater.



Snail host releases parasite.

2

Between weeks 1 and 4:
DISEASE DEVELOPMENT

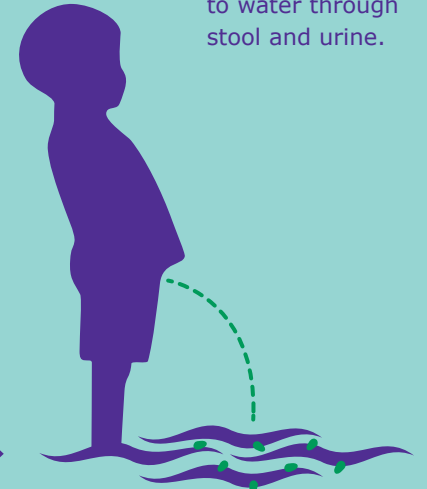
Worms grow slowly in the human host, primarily attacking the colon and bladder and leading to chronic diseases.



Paired adult worms produce eggs causing the disease symptoms. Worms can live in the human host for years.

3

After week 4:
TRANSMISSION of eggs from body to water through stool and urine.



Freshwater contamination with eggs.

Parasites hatch from the eggs and infect the snail host.

OUR vision is elimination

How can we achieve this?

With a comprehensive approach based on our integrated strategy, we want to ensure progress and success:



Treatment

We have been partnering with the World Health Organization since 2007. Today, we provide up to **250 million tablets** annually to countries affected by schistosomiasis.



Research and development

We accelerate research and development by driving collaborative programs for: **innovative treatments** to prevent and cure the disease and sensitive diagnostics. Furthermore, we **advance science** in an open innovation framework and implement initiatives to enhance local capacity in Africa.



Behavioral change

Together with our partners and local health authorities, we support **various awareness campaigns, health education and WASH** (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) projects in various countries to prevent re-infection with schistosomiasis.



Strong partnerships

We believe that close cooperation and collaboration will lead to more action to control and eliminate schistosomiasis. Strong partnerships are essential to advancing the global agenda, which is why we are a founding member of the **Global Schistosomiasis Alliance (GSA)**, an all-inclusive coalition of international partners.



we optimize

our tablets for better taste and extended shelf-life to increase their acceptance among the patients.



we collaborate

with the Global Schistosomiasis Alliance to accelerate progress towards elimination.



we develop

a new pediatric treatment for children aged 3 months to 6 years.



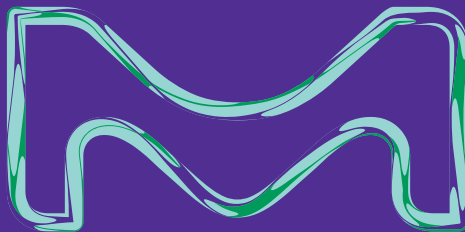
we conduct

research on new schistosomiasis rapid diagnostic tests.



we support

health education and WASH initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa to encourage behavioral change.



Read more about our engagement:

[EMDgroup.com/schistosomiasis](https://emdgroup.com/schistosomiasis)

#MakingSchistoHistory



The businesses of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as
EMD Serono, MilliporeSigma and EMD Electronics in the U.S. and Canada.