

Schistosomiasis

This article is about the disease. For the organism, see [Schistosoma](#).

Schistosomiasis

Other names	Bilharzia, snail fever, Katayama fever ^{[1][2]}
	11-year-old boy with abdominal fluid and portal hypertension due to schistosomiasis (Agusan del Sur, Philippines)
Pronunciation	/ˌʃɪstəsəˈmaɪəsɪs, -toʊ-, -soʊ-/^{[3][4]}
Medical specialty	Infectious disease
Symptoms	Abdominal pain , diarrhea , bloody stool , blood in the urine ^[5]
Complications	Liver damage , kidney failure , infertility , bladder cancer ^[5]
Causes	Schistosomes from freshwater snails ^[5]
Diagnostic method	Finding eggs of the parasite in urine or stool, antibodies in blood ^[5]
Prevention	Access to clean water ^[5]
Medication	Praziquantel ^[5]
Frequency	252 million (2015) ^[6]
Deaths	4,400–200,000 ^{[7][8]}

Schistosomiasis, also known as **snail fever** and **bilharzia**,^[9] is a [disease](#) caused by [parasitic flatworms](#) called [schistosomes](#).^[5] The [urinary tract](#) or the [intestines](#) may be infected.^[5]

Symptoms include [abdominal pain](#), [diarrhea](#), [bloody stool](#), or [blood in the urine](#).^[5] Those who have been infected for a long time (chronic infection) may experience [liver damage](#), [kidney failure](#), [infertility](#), or [bladder cancer](#).^[5] In children, it may cause [poor growth](#) and [learning difficulty](#).^[5]

Cause

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The disease is caused by contact with [fresh water](#) containing the parasites (schistosomes).^[5] These parasites are from infected [freshwater snails](#).^[5] The disease is very common among children in [developing countries](#), as they are more likely to play in infected water.^[5] Other high-risk groups include farmers, fishermen, and people using unclean water.^[5] It is a [helminth](#)

[infections](#).^[10] Eggs of the parasite may be found in urine or stool.^[5]
[Antibodies](#) may also be found in the blood.^[5]

Prevention and treatment

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To prevent the disease use clean water and reduce snails.^[5] The medicine [praziquantel](#) may be given once a year to everybody in some places.^[5] This will decrease the number of people infected.^[5] Praziquantel is also the treatment recommended by the [World Health Organization](#) for those who are known to be infected.^[5]

Epidemiology

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Schistosomiasis affected about 252 million people in 2015.^[6] An estimated 4,400 to 200,000 people die from it each year.^{[7][8]} The disease is mainly found in Africa, Asia, and [South America](#).^[5] About 700 million people, in more than 70 countries, live where the disease is common.^{[7][11]} In [tropical](#) countries, schistosomiasis is a great [economic](#) problem.^[12] Schistosomiasis is listed as a [neglected tropical disease](#).^[13]

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