**INTRODUCTION**

- Schistosomiasis is a neglected tropical disease caused by a parasitic flatworm.
- Carried by snails living in fresh, stagnant water, the parasite penetrates human skin upon contact.
- Symptoms include severe pain, diarrhea, blood in the urine, organ damage, infertility, increased risk of HIV, and eventual death.
- Afflicts over 200 million people in the poorest regions of seventy-four countries in Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.
- It is preventable, treatable, and curable.
- Those in certain occupations are at particularly high risk, including agricultural workers, irrigation workers, fishermen, miners, and people carrying out domestic tasks due to direct contact with unsafe water.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To examine the occupational health risk factors for schistosomiasis in order to understand the factors at play leading to high rates of schistosomiasis in endemic communities in Africa.
- To explore the types of occupational activities involving high-risk contact with infected water.

**METHODS**

- Systematically searched for articles in English in all years, using keywords and MeSH terms, in the databases Scopus, Medline, and Web of Science. No regional limit criteria was set.
- The following were the criteria for inclusion:
  - The study was peer-reviewed and was published in English.
  - The article was not a randomized controlled trial of a vaccine or drug, or an intervention study related to schistosomiasis.
  - The study concerned schistosomiasis.
  - The study examined a specific occupational group in Africa.
  - The study identified the specific occupation as a factor to contracting schistosomiasis.
- After eliminating internal and external duplicate studies, articles were excluded first based on the titles, then by reading the abstracts, and last by reviewing the entire study.

**RESULTS**

- Number of records identified: n=911
- Number of duplicates removed: n=221
- Number of papers excluded: n=647
- Reasons for exclusions based on screening titles and abstracts:
  - The study was conducted in Africa
  - The study was published in English
  - The study was not a randomized controlled trial of a vaccine or drug
  - The study concerned a specific occupational cohort
  - The study identified the specific occupational cohort as a risk factor for schistosomiasis

**REFERENCES**


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