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.

It affects 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. 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.

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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 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 records screened: n= 690

Number of full-text records assessed for eligibility: n=46

Number of papers excluded: n=647 Reasons for exclusions based on screening titles and abstracts:

1. The study was conducted in Africa
2. The study was an article or review
3. The paper was published in English
4. The study was not a randomized controlled trial of a vaccine or drug
5. The study concerned a specific occupational cohort
6. The study identified the specific occupational cohort as a risk factor for schistosomiasis

Number of studies included in qualitative synthesis: n= 40

Number of duplicates removed: n= 221

Reasons for inclusions based on eligibility criteria:

1. The study identified the specific occupation as a factor to contracting schistosomiasis

REFERENCES
