Pakistan is a South Asian country, bordering the Arabian Sea. Though travelers have presented isolated cases and Rollinson et al.’s comprehensive paper outlining worldwide schistosomiasis prevalence listed Pakistan’s 2010 prevalence at <10% [4], based on the WHO’s weekly epidemiologic record [5], human schistosomiasis is not likely to be endemic in Pakistan. The disease’s absence has been explicitly asserted in the literature [1,2,3]. Isolated cases have been observed in travelers from Nigeria and Malawi [6,7]. The latter case led authors to conclude that schistosomiasis endemcity is possible in Pakistan due to the following risk factors: frequent travel to and from endemic countries by its citizens, the presence of Biomphalaria snails, and construction of dams and irrigation canals [2].
Prevalence of Schistosomiasis in Pakistan

A survey of 20,000 cattle and buffaloes in northeastern Pakistan found 7-21% prevalence of infection with the animal schistosomes, S. indicum and/or S. bovis [7], while another survey of schistosomes in buffaloes showed prevalence of 13.6% to 17% in four districts of the eastern Punjab region [8]. The animal-schistosome host snails that have been found in Pakistan include Bulinus spp. and Indoplanorbis, some of which are infected with Schistosoma bovis [9,10].

References