Sao Tome & Principe

The History of Schistosomiasis in Sao Tome & Principe

Schistosomiasis is endemic at low levels on the island nation of Sao Tome & Principe. The first clinical case of human schistosomiasis on Sao Tome & Principe was described in 1988 (1). In 1991 the national prevalence was estimated at 10.9% (2) and later in 1995 the national prevalence was estimated at 3.8% (3). The only human schistosome species present in Sao Tome & Principe is Schistosoma intercalatum (2). Though S. haematobium was mentioned in 1987 (4), later surveys have confirmed only the presence of S. intercalatum on the islands (2, 5).

Prevalence of Schistosomiasis in Sao Tome & Principe

The parasite is unevenly distributed throughout the country. According to a 1989 survey, prevalence is highest in Sao Tome near the capital, between the rivers Rio Grande and Manuel Jorge, while in the southeast and western coast, prevalence is lower (5).

Schistosomiasis in Sao Tome & Principe [8]

- **Districts with the highest transmission include Lobata, Mezochi, and Agua Grande**

- **52% of the population that requires treatment are school aged children**

Overview of Sao Tome & Principe [6]

- Population in 2015: 194,006
- Official Language: Portuguese
- Capital: Sao Tome
- Semi-Presidential Republic
- Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Drinking Water in 2015: 97.1%
- Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation in 2015: 34.7%
Prevalence Continued..

A later survey in 1994 affirmed that transmission occurs in the northeast of Sao Tome, and that the districts with the highest transmission include Lobata, Mezochi, and Agua Grande (2).

Control of Schistosomiasis in Sao Tome & Principe

Control efforts in Sao Tome & Principe have been limited. Though praziquantel has been given to infected individuals as part of surveys (2), there have been no national control programs on record.

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References