

Reviewer: Tori Schmalstieg

3/21/18

This paper discusses the methods of treatment, prevention as well as control of the species of schistosomiasis that effect humans. The article is very informative and descriptive with few grammatical errors. I advise the authors to consider the following suggestions:

Abstract:

1. This section is very brief and not very detailed. I would suggest adding a little more detail. Possibly giving a summary of each part of the paper such as the introduction having its own summary, the inner processes, and the conclusion.

Introduction:

1. This section is relatively well written with nice transitions from one fact to the next. One piece of information that I suggest adding is maybe some statistics for each of the regions effected to show the seriousness of the disease.
2. Along with the addition of the statistics, the addition of a few clinical symptoms may make the reader understand the severity of the disease.
3. Another suggestion is to explain what the disability weight is and its significance. The paper says that “.006 disability weights” was the first estimate and “a disability weight of 2%” was used in the new estimation but it does not really explain what these are and what purpose they have.

Life Cycle:

1. The life cycle and very clearly described and mapped out.
2. In the second paragraph, you state “There seems to be a difference in the way different schistosome species migrate through the skin.” It may be more informative to add how each of these species migrate individually.

Morbidity

1. The connecting of each species to each of the clinical signs and symptoms was very well done.
2. The use of a table to organize each species with the clinical signs and symptoms that they cause may make this section more organized and easier to read.

Treatment

1. This section is also very informative and descriptive for each type of treatment and what species they work on.
2. I would explain why each treatment works on certain species and what they do to them.
3. The “controlled trial” mentioned in the 5th paragraph could benefit from data to back up the claim. What kind of data was found to show that the “artemether did not improve the efficacy of praziquantel in the treatment of S. japonicum infection.”

Prevention

1. The addition of the information about the vaccines would be beneficial here.

Control

1. The use of examples with dates is very useful to depict the attempts at control's successes and misses.
2. I'm not so sure that the mentioning of the occupations is necessary since it was mentioned twice before in the prevention section. Maybe just saying something like "those communities and groups of people mentioned" would suffice.
3. Many of the examples used in this section may benefit from data to back up the claims. One example being in Egypt. Show statistical data about the morbidity and how it decreased as well as the prevalence and severity of infection. Just saying that they decreased does not really prove it.

Conclusion

1. There is mention of vaccine development in this section, but it is not really mentioned anywhere else. This should have at least been mentioned in the prevention section as mentioned before.
2. I also feel as though the species should have been mentioned in this section since they were a large part of this paper.

Overall recommendations: Minor revisions, suggested resubmission