Overview:
- Cross-sectional study
- Commentary

Introduction:
- Issues:
  - I think it would clarify the inequalities in infrastructure to further discuss why China is more equipped to handle this epidemic than the Philippines
  - Why was China chosen as a comparison given the different parameters in demographics?
- The introduction does a fine job describing the prevalence of the problem as well as the reason why this region needs more attention than other regions i.e. China
- Shows that MDA and shows that there is a need to evaluate the current treatment system
  - Shows where the paper is going and what they intend to address within the study
- I think the DALYs add a nice touch on to demonstrate the burden of disease

Methods:
- Issues:
  - Using a cross-sectional study has many limitations in this setting; I think it would be informative (and possibly necessary) to do a secondary site visit with the same parameters and measure incidence to prove that the current treatment regime is not effectively working.
    - No baseline was established for this data set so it is hard to determine if this is actually unsuccessful or more people are seeking help
  - How is schistosomiasis endemic setting being categorized and what definition of this is being applied here?
  - For study oversight, how many of the 10% of slides that were randomly checked were found to have been incorrectly counted or defined?
- Statistical analysis seems appropriate, based on my limited understanding of some of the statistical measures used here.
- Appropriate approval of the proper authorities on human subject use

Results
- Issues:
  - I think that Figure 3b would be better as a map to understand the geographic distribution of cases
  - Is the head of the household a reliable source for the entirety of the household?
• Particularly when the people may not be fully aware of their own health, as demonstrated with the sampling for morbidly, how can we expect them to know for the rest of their household
  o Are the demographic you’re looking at matching that of the overall population?
    ▪ Never stated
  o Why was only one species evaluated and evaluated by egg count?
• Nicely layout the population they looked at for the study
• Showed how they sampled the population and who answered the questions

Discussion:
• Issues:
  o I think it would be helpful to expand on why the drug compliance rate is so low in this region
    ▪ Just something to address the issue at a minimum would be helpful
  o Future directions for the next set of studies would also help understand the limitations of the current conclusions
• Help define the current problems that this study finds
  o Talks about the discrepancies in policy that could make population more susceptible
  o Also makes recommendations as to what should be considered for implementation