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## **ABSTRACT**

### Title:

PREVALENCE OF SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI INFECTION AMONG PATIENTS VISTING AGARO HEALTH CENTRE, JIMMA ZONE, SOUTH WEST ETHIOPA.

### Text:

There is a long history of research and control in the field of liver schistosomiasis that has resulted in major scientific and public health accomplishments. They include the role of liver immunologic regulation in chronic infections, the association of helminth infections with Th1-regulating Th2-type immune responses and the critical role of interleukin-13 in liver fibrogenesis.

S.mansoni infection rates of above 60% in Ethiopian school children have been reported from highly endemic communities from Tigray, and from a number of other communities in different part of Ethiopia. At Agaro teaching health centre, Jimma zone, Ethiopia, a lab based cross sectional study using formal-ether concentration technique was carried out in April 2007, in which from a sample size of 113 persons, the overall prevalence of infection was 12.38% with 24.8% women and 9.6% men patients. At the same time, four different species of soil transmitted helminths namely Tricuris tricuris (24.6%), Hookworm (19.3%), Ascaris lumbricoid (17.4%) and H.nana (8.8%) were identified. Similar study conducted in Jimma specialized hospital (2006), indicated 15.27% prevalence of S.mansoni infections in 203 patients. The most affected age group in this study was 11-15 years, and female patients appeared affected more.

A number of cases of liver cancer, colorectal, giant follicular lymphoma and some other cancers have been reported in association with schistosomiasis infections. A coordinated effort that combines epidemiological, malacological surveys, parasitological and liver ultrasonographic examinations shall be implemented to determine the magnitude of morbidity and severity of these diseases and to take appropriate measures against their control. This work was supported by research and publication office of Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia.