

Urinary soluble egg antigen levels in *Schistosoma haematobium* infection in relation to sex and age of Kenyan schoolchildren following praziquantel treatment.

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Schistosoma haematobium soluble egg antigen (SEA) secreted in urine can be assayed to determine egg tissue load and hence morbidity in infected individuals. A cohort of 158 infected children aged 4-18 years was followed-up for 33 days pre and post treatment with a single dose of praziquantel. There was a significant difference in the prevalence of *S. haematobium* between males and females ($P < 0.05$). There were also significant differences in egg counts between age group ≤ 5 years compared with 6-8 years, 9-11 years and 12-14 years, and age group ≥ 15 years compared with 6-8 years, 9-11 years and 12-14 years ($P < 0.05$). Comparison of SEA among age groups indicated a significant difference between age group ≤ 5 years compared with 9-11 years, 12-14 years and ≥ 15 years, and age group ≥ 15 years compared with 9-11 years and 12-14 years ($P < 0.05$). There was a statistically significant correlation between levels of SEA and egg output ($r^2=0.961$, $P=0.010$). These results are useful in the development of a SEA-based dipstick assay for field diagnosis of urinary schistosomiasis.