How do we diagnose schistosomiasis?

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Taking samples

School-age children are asked to provide samples, in randomly selected schools

Preparing samples

Technicians prepare slides from samples using Kato-Katz technique

Analysing samples

Technicians analyse samples for presence of eggs and record results
How do we diagnose schistosomiasis?

Cercariae are free-swimming schistosome larvae, which infect people by penetrating their skin, when they come into contact with contaminated water.

Adult schistosome worm pairs can lay up to 200 eggs per day. The eggs have spines on them which penetrate blood vessels and cause blood loss.