PREVALENCE OF URINARY SCHISTOSOMIASIS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN BIRNIN-GWARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KADUNA STATE

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ABSTRACT

A survey on prevalence of urinary schistosomiasis was carried out among primary school pupils between the ages of 6 and 17 years in ten primary schools in Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State between July 2010 and February 2011. Questionnaires were administered to obtain demographic information and risk factors from each pupil. A total of 300 pupils were examined comprising of 215 males and 85 females. The urine samples were examined for Schistosoma haematobium eggs using the Sedimentation technique and microscopy. Out of the 300 urine samples examined, an overall prevalence of 36.0% (108/300) was obtained. The disease occurred in 88(29.3%) males and 20 (6.7%) females. There was significant difference (p<0.05) between males and females. The highest prevalence in males (9.7%) was recorded in the 15-17 years age group, which depicts increase in prevalence with increase in age. The lowest prevalence (5.3%) was recorded in the 6-8 years age group. Similarly, in females, the highest prevalence (2.7%) was recorded in the 12-14 years age group while the least (0.7%) was recorded in the 6-8 years age group. There was significant associations (p<0.05) observed between prevalence and risk factors of terminal haematuria (OR = 7.8), source of water from stream (OR = 2.8), Fishing (OR = 1.4) and use of pond water (OR = 2.4). Prevalence of disease varied among different schools. Bulinus species of snails were encountered in the water bodies surveyed in the study area. Water contact activities in the area tend to favor transmission of the disease therefore serious attention must be given to public health enlightenment campaign especially among children of school age to be aware of the dangers of swimming and fishing in ponds and streams where snail vectors thrive. Safe drinking water should be provided in the area to reduce human-water contact activities.

Keywords: Urinary schistosomiasis, prevalence, school children, water contact

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