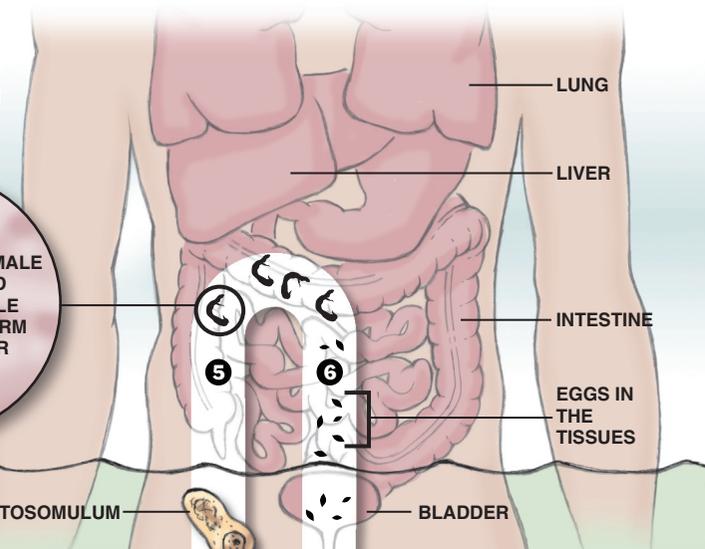
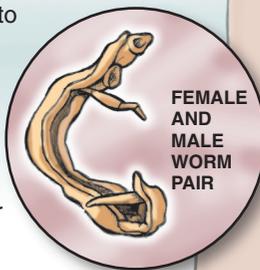


The Life Cycle of Schistosomiasis

Schistosomiasis affects more than 200 million people worldwide. The parasitic larvae live in fresh water and can penetrate human skin, placing people at risk through everyday activities such as washing laundry or fetching water. Inside the victim's body, adult female worms lay thousands of eggs that cause significant damage to internal organs, most commonly from scarring the intestines, bladder, kidneys, liver, or lungs. Children suffer the most from schistosomiasis, which causes poor growth and impaired cognitive function. The disease is completely preventable and can be controlled through an annual inexpensive drug treatment, health education, and access to safe water and sanitation.



Contaminated Fresh Water



- 1** Parasitic eggs in fresh water.
- 2** Larvae called miracidiae hatch from the eggs then seek out certain species of snails.
- 3** Infecting the snails, the miracidiae multiply, producing larvae called cercariae.
- 4** Released into the water, the cercariae penetrate human skin, transforming into larvae called schistosomulae.
- 5** The schistosomulae mature into worms in the blood supply of the liver, intestines, and bladder.
- 6** The worms lay thousands of eggs that cause damage as they work through tissues.
- 7** The eggs, released into the water in urine or feces, restart the cycle.