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Detection of schistosome circulating antigens CCA and CAA: diagnostic test interpretation and application

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“Detection of schistosome circulating antigens CCA and CAA. Diagnostic test interpretation and application”

1. Male schistosome worms regurgitate more CAA than female worms, both *in vivo* and *ex vivo*. [This thesis]
2. Estimation of CAA *per* worm is rather difficult since CAA *per* worm might vary. [This thesis]
3. The effect of Praziquantel after four treatments is different if measured by egg microscopy or circulating antigen detection. Using accurate diagnostic tools is crucial to monitor the true infection status. [This thesis]
4. The G-scores attempt to visually support scoring of the POC-CCA test by having a coloured scale of the cassettes. Field work showed that improvement of the G-score system is needed. [This thesis]
5. Collecting information about the specificity of the POC-CCA test in urine from children and pregnant women has been done in a non-endemic population. Collection of data from these groups in an endemic population is necessary for the integration to control programmes using POC-CCA. [This thesis]
6. Doing schistosomiasis field work is different than doing work in the field of schistosomiasis. Everyone that truly has an interest in Neglected Tropical Diseases should try to be hands-on at least once, to have a deeper understanding about the meaning of field work.
7. Climate change and extreme weather events are known to impact the abundance of freshwater snails and their interaction to schistosomes. Thus, modelling approaches are important tools to anticipate geographical expansion of snails and transmission potential. [Adapted, *De Leo et al, 2020. BMJ*]
8. Hybrids between cattle and human schistosomes point to an important zoonotic aspect. It is time for a strong interdisciplinary collaboration to fill in all the gaps in the diagnostic scene. [Adapted, *Cnops et al, 2021. Clinical Infectious Diseases*]
9. Controlling access to the scientific literature, it is, to all intents and purposes, like controlling science. Instead, open access is the key to embrace new collaborations. [Adapted, *Dr Neal Young, National Institutes of Health, 2008*]
10. During field work, drawing the life cycle of schistosomiasis had a strong effect in the participants. The children shared their change in (water related) behavior with each other, which shows the power of education.
11. Science, music and sport should be a source of communication among humans, instead of violence and weapons. [Inspired from *Pau Casals, Nobel prize for Peace and Freedom, 1958*]