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### **Abstract**

*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  $\leq 5$  years compared with 6-8 years, 9-11 years and 12-14 years, and age group  $\geq 15$  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  $\leq 5$  years compared with 9-11 years, 12-14 years and  $\geq 15$  years, and age group  $\geq 15$  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.