

[ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ]

**Authors' Response to "Praziquantel Could Be the Appropriate Choice for the Diagnostic Treatment of Schistosomiasis"**

**Key words:** schistosomiasis, liver biopsy, praziquantel

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*The Authors Reply* We appreciate Dr. Fukuchi's letter and now would like to take this opportunity to respond to the letter and clarify aspects of this case. We also thank Dr. Fukuchi and his associates for their interest in our paper and their correspondence.

We agree with Dr. Fukuchi's observation that the fecal smear test has high specificity but low sensitivity. We can also consider a laparoscopic liver biopsy to be an invasive test. This patient did not undergo magnetic resonance imaging, which would have been informative, as she was claustrophobic. Colonoscopy was also not conclusive since the mucosal calcifications were only suspected to be insect eggs. It was important for us to clarify the liver pathology, as the patient's primary reason for her referral was a fever and

liver damage. In the absence of positive serology or fecal test findings, a histological examination of the liver was essential. Although a liver biopsy is indeed invasive, the laparoscopic approach is superior to percutaneous liver biopsy in terms of hemostasis, as well as for selecting an appropriate site for a biopsy. We did consider performing a therapeutic trial with praziquantel and suggested this as an alternative to a laparoscopic liver biopsy to the patient and her family. The decision to opt for a liver biopsy was based on the choice that the family made after weighing their options.

**The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).**

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