Schistosomiasis is one of the most prevalent parasitic diseases worldwide. The existing standard-of-care treatment is administered through mass drug administration programs mainly to school-aged children in Sub-Saharan Africa. There is currently no treatment suitable for children six years of age and younger.

The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium has developed a potential new treatment option that is suitable for preschool-aged children. The new treatment option is a small (150 mg) tablet, that has an acceptable taste, withstands the hot and humid challenges presented by a tropical climate, and is (oro)-dispersible – making it easy to administer to very young children.

Schistosomiasis poses a major child health development challenge, with long-term impacts in terms of decreased quality of life. Potential morbidity and long-term consequences of schistosomiasis for children:

- Cognitive impairment & reduced ability to learn
- Impaired immune response / co-infections
- Bladder & cervical cancer
- Liver fibrosis
- Anemia
- Malnutrition & stunting
- Imprecise dosing due to the need for crushing
- Absence of clinical data in very young children
- Bitter taste
- Large size of tablets

Factors that make the current standard of care generally unsuitable for preschool-aged children:

- Large size of tablets
- Imprecise dosing due to the need for crushing
- Bitter taste
- Absence of clinical data in very young children


The Pediatric Praziquantel Consortium has developed a potential new treatment option that is suitable for preschool-aged children. The new treatment option is a small (150 mg) tablet, that has an acceptable taste, withstands the hot and humid challenges presented by a tropical climate, and is (oro)-dispersible – making it easy to administer to very young children.