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Effects of Neem tree (*Azadirchata indica*) leaves on mouse infected with
Schistosoma mansoni

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HEALTH SCIENCE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH PROJECT

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ABSTRACT

Schistosomiasis continues to be a serious world wide public health problem.

Praziquantel is the most effective drug against adult stages of human Schistosomes. It has become the drug of choice for morbidity and control of schistosomiasis.

However it is not a satisfying situation to have only one drug. Ideally other drugs should be available so that the strategy of avoiding development of drug resistance could be followed. The use of plants for treatment of various diseases is universal. Therefore there is a need for new drugs. The neem plant has been used locally to treat many diseases in Kenya especially in coastal region. Consequently animal model study was sought to evaluate the efficacy of this plant in Schistosome infected BALB/l mice. Six mice were infected and randomly grouped as follows; mice in group 1 were treated with Praziquantel, group 2 treated with neem plant extract and group 3 the control was not given any treatment. Mice were perfused for adult worm recovery at week 5 post infection. From the study there is clear indication that still Praziquantel is the drug of choice compared to neem plant extract though the pathology were the same ($P \leq 0.05$). Therefore the neem plant was not effective against *Schistosome mansoni* in BALB/c mice.