

## INTRODUCTION

Schistosomiasis is essentially a disease of the urinary and / or intestinal tract, but no other system in the body is immune . It may produce a variety of lesions in any part of the female genital organs from vulva to the ovary. Schistosomiasis of the female genital organs was first described in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Petridis (1899), Quoted by Hefnawi et al, (1980) reported 2 cases of Schistosomal lesions of the cervix .

In the same year, Madden described 3 cases of the vulva, vagina and posterior lip of the cervix uteri. Since then many authors reported on various aspects of the disease. (Youssef et al., 1970).

Genital schistosomiasis is seen in all tropical and subtropical countries, notably Egypt, Africa, India, Malaysia, Indo-China, Central and South America, where the causal worm and its intermediate host-a water snail are prevalent (Jeffcoate, 1975).

Schistosomiasis in Egypt is endemic and is considered as one of the most serious health problems, particularly among villagers. It is common in the Nile Delta region

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(lower Egypt) than in Upper Egypt. It produces a variety of lesions in any of the female genital organs from vulva to ovaries. It can show itself in different clinical presentations, and it may simulate any gynaecological lesions, from simple inflammations to cancer (Hefnawi et al, 1980).

In countries, in which the common species is Schistosoma mansoni, the fallopian tubes and the ovaries are the organs usually involved, but in countries where Schistosoma haematobium is more prevalent, as in Egypt, we find that the lower genital tract, namely, the cervix, vagina and vulva are the organs more involved (Badawy, 1962).

The disease was found in about two per thousand among gynaecological disorders admitted into Kasr El-Aini Hospital in Cairo (Hefnawi and Magdi, 1950). The site of predilection are the external genitalia, cervix and vagina, while the body of uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries are rare sites (Shafeek, 1958).

Charlewood et al. (1949), reported a large series of cases in which the tubes, ovaries and uterine body were involved Youssef et al.,(1970), found the cervix to be the commonest site of infestation.