Schistosomiasis and Presinusoidal Portal Hypertension

M. Willems¹, H. van Buuren¹, P. Zondervan², S. Gratema²

¹ Dept. of Hepatogastroenterology, University Hospital Rotterdam, The Netherlands
² Dept. of Pathology, University Hospital Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Corresponding Author
M. Willems, M.D., Ph.D.
Dept. of Hepatogastroenterology
Erasmus University Hospital Rotterdam
PO Box 2040
3000 CA Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Fax: +31-10-4365916
E-mail: willems@md.lazr.nl

Figure 1 A 36-year-old Angolese man was examined because of portal hypertension of unknown origin. Physical examination revealed marked splenomegaly. Serological testing for schistosome infection was positive (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA] 1:256). A laparoscopy was performed, and both right and left liver lobes showed a pattern of diffuse and irregular white bands, suggesting fibrosis.

Figure 2 Microscopical examination of a liver biopsy showed periportal fibrosis and a schistosome egg was detected with a granulomatous reaction. Treatment with a single dose of praziquantel was given.