

Question 47 – Week of May 23

22 year old female comes back from volunteering for 6 months in the Dominican Republic. She complains of persistent RLQ abdominal pain and diarrhea with weight loss. Colonoscopy reveals the following in the cecum.

Which of the statements is true?



- A. This is most likely schistosoma japonicum
- B. The parasite eggs are lodged in the intestine and result in granuloma formation
- C. The parasite can cause hepatic fibrosis and portal hypertension
- D. There is no effective treatment for this disease

Answer: C

Schistosoma mansoni is acquired when exposed to infected waters in endemic areas like the Caribbean, South America or Africa. The adult worm penetrates the skin and reaches the mesenteric vessels leading eventually to the liver causing hepatic fibrosis and portal hypertension. Long standing infection of the intestines results in malnutrition and iron deficiency anemia.