A RARE CAUSE OF INVASIVE BLADDER CANCER IN EUROPE
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Bladder Schistosomiasis (bilharzias) caused by S. hematobium is associated with a five-fold risk of urinary bladder cancer. In this setting, bladder cancer has an early onset and a high frequency of squamous cell carcinomas, usually well-differentiated or verrucous type that are exophytic and with a good prognosis.

A 32 year old women African immigrant from Angola, with history of microcytic anemia was seen for intermittent hematuria for the past 2 years. On cystoscopy most of the bladder wall mucosa was replaced by tumor. A transurethral biopsy of the bladder confirmed invasive squamous cell carcinoma and imagiology revealed peri-vesical fat invasion without evidence of clinical metastases. The patient underwent treatment with praziquantel plus uncomplicated radical cystectomy, extended pelvic lymphadenectomy and construction of Studer ileal neobladder. Pathological examination revealed a squamous cell carcinoma involving macroscopically the peri-vesical fat, with no pelvic lymph nodes metastasis (pT3b, pN0, pMX), along with calcified eggs of Schistosoma in the carcinoma and areas of normal bladder. After 5 months of follow-up the patient presented with abdominal pain, pelvic relapse and bone metastases. Currently she is being submitted to pelvic radiotherapy plus chemotherapy and bifosfonates. Urinary schistosomiasis is rare in our setting but it should be considered in patients with sporadic episodes of hematuria that have immigrated from or travelled to areas where this disease is endemic. We report a case of very aggressive squamous cell carcinoma of the bladder in a very young woman in the setting of urinary schistosomiasis.