Schistosomiasis, also known as Bilharzia or snail fever, is a parasitic disease caused by five species of flatworms, all from the genus Schistosoma. Snail fever is second to Malaria as the most widespread, parasitic tropical disease. This disease causes symptoms such as abdominal pain, cough, diarrhea, fever, and fatigue. As a tropical disease, it is found mostly in Africa, South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Asia.

Schistosomiasis is contracted from contact with infected freshwater. This is because fresh-water snails are the natural reservoir until larval stage. Once at the larval stage, the worm leaves the snail and exists in the water awaiting contact with a mammalian host. Inside the host, eggs are produced and excreted by way of the urine or feces.

This disease is diagnosed by testing for blood in the urine or feces. Although there is no vaccine, there are drugs such as Praziquantel that can be taken to cure an infected patient. Prevention methods include avoiding swimming or washing with infected water, heating water or storing it before use, and drying vigorously with a towel if accidental contact occurs.

Organizations like the World Health Organization and Schistosomiasis Control Initiative are fighting to control this widespread disease. Because of the effects snail fever has on the immune system, it is imperative to control the disease in order to aid the fight against other diseases such as Malaria.