



Measurements of schistosomes after PZQ exposure. Morphological appearance and measurements of shape factor and fiber length for male and female worms after exposure to increasing concentrations of PZQ for 30 min. Six-week-old worms were incubated in individual wells of a sterile 96 well-plate for 30 min at 37°C and 5% CO₂ in medium containing PZQ diluted to a final concentration of 0, 1, 10, 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 µg/mL in 1% DMSO. Individual groups of 6 males and 6 females were each exposed to different concentration of the drug. At the end of the incubation period each worm was photographed using a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera on a dissecting microscope. Pictures were processed with Metamorph v4.65 software to provide an indicator of “shape factor” - the degree of schistosome contraction was obtained by measuring the circularity and assigning a value of 0 to a linear and 1.0 to a completely circular schistosome. A second measurement of “fiber length,” which measures the internal length of the worm, was also estimated using this software.