

Start from scratch: effect of a programme on scabies in asylum seekers on arrival in the Netherlands

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Start study period: January 2014

May 2015: frequent observations of scabies
 Complicated forms of scabies, high number of reinfections

July 2015: Introduction of a (preventive) programme

End study period: March 2016

Main objective

Is a prevention and treatment programme on scabies in asylum seekers feasible and effective?

Methods

Retrospective study at the national reception centre in all asylum seekers that received scabies treatment

During the programme asylum seekers received ivermectin on arrival in the Netherlands either as prevention or as treatment of clinical signs of scabies

The number of complications and reinfections before and after introduction of the programme were compared

Results

2866 asylum seekers received (preventive) treatment of which 1359 had signs of scabies (itch and burrows).

After introduction of the programme:

- Reinfections or re-infestations were less common (42.0% => 27.2%)
- Development of complications (mainly secondary infections) reduced (12.3 => 4.6%)
- 580 of 897 (64.7%) patients with scabies diagnosed on arrival in the Netherlands
- 317 asylum seekers with scabies despite ivermectin on arrival in the Netherlands or no preventive treatment, developed clinical signs after a median 83.5 of days

Conclusion

1. High prevalence of scabies among asylum seekers on arrival including severe complicated forms
2. A scabies programme is feasible and effective in early detection and reduction of scabies reinfections and complications



	Treatment received before programme (N=532)	Treatment received during screening programme (N=2334)
Preventive treatments on arrival (%)	NA	1422 (60.9)
Preventive treatment started after arrival (%)	70 (13.2)	15 (0.7)
Asylum seekers with scabies diagnosis (%)	462 (86.8)	897 (38.4)
Detected on arrival at reception centre	NA	580
Reported to an asylum health centre in the Netherlands, no preventive treatment on arrival	462	48
Reported to an asylum health centre in the Netherlands despite preventive treatment on arrival	NA	269