

Efficacy and safety of combined therapy with albendazole and ivermectin in chronic Strongyloidiasis: observacional study.

A. Rodriguez- Guardado, M. Rodriguez, F. Pérez, M. Martinez, N. Morán, V. Carcaba, J. Carton
Infectious Disease Unit. Microbiology Unit .Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias

Background

- Strongyloidiasis remains an important health problem due to autoinfection, which may result in hyperinfection.
- Ivermectin and albendazole are effective. However, the most effective dosing regimen are to be determined.



Objectives

- A observacional study carried out in Spain describing the efficacy of combined therapy with ivermectin and albendazole for treatment of strongyloidiasis

Methods

- A prospectively observational study was conducted in which all patients with chronic strongyloidiasis attending in Tropical Medicine Unit of Hospital Central de Asturias were treated with a combined therapy of: albendazole (400 mg/12h/7 days) and ivermectin 200 microgramos/kg/day 2 days.
- Combination of repeated examination of three concentrated stool samples, culture in blood agar and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for serum anti-S. stercoralis antibodies was used as diagnostic assay.
- Infection exits if the microscopic visualization of larvae in stool sample and/or the Elisa was positive. The presence of other nematodes or filarias were discarded.
- Patients were followed-up with 2 weeks after initiation of treatment, then 1,3,6,9 months and 1 year after treatment with serological and parasitological screening in each follow-up visit.
- The disease was cured if two consecutive test were negative. The primary endpoint was clearance of strongyloides larvae from feces or negativization of serological test after treatment and at one year follow-up

Results

- 81 patients were included in the analysis.
- The most frequents countries of origin were :Equatorial Guinea (32%) and Ecuador (18,5%)
- All patients showed positive serological test and three patients had stool test positive. 80% of patients were immigrants and the rest long-time traveller.
- The median range of follow up were 38 (4-74) weeks. The most frequent symptoms are abdominal pain (60%) and eosinophilia (28%). 18 are asymptomatic.
- Thirteen patients have eosinophilia in blood (mean 2,552 cells/mm³). All patients were treated with ivermectin plus albendazole.
- In all patients except two the diagnostic test became negative one month before the treatment and in the follow up.
- Cure rate were 97,5%. Eosinopllia became negative one month after the treatment. Two patients leave the follow-up and the rest are yet to follow. No patients recidived. No severe side effects were recorded

Conclusion

- Combined therapy with ivermectin and albendazole provides a safe and a highly effective treatment for S. Stercoralis.
- No severe side effects were recorded.

Contact; azucenarodriguez@telecable.es