



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Investigation into Community-Directed Treatment with Ivermectin (CDTI) in Tano- Ankobra Onchocerciasis Transmission Zone in Ghana

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

Persistent transmission of onchocerciasis is occurring in the Tano- Ankobra Onchocerciasis Transmission Zone, particularly in the Kwanware-Ottou community, Ghana despite more than 20 years of community treatment. This study explores the population of farmers, miners, and other groups in Kwanware-Ottou and within a surrounding 10 km radius and ways of increasing their participation in Community-Directed treatment with ivermectin (CDTI).

Method:

Mixed Methods (Quantitative and qualitative) were employed, including: • Geographic Information System exploration to identify settlements for inclusion in a census and survey. • A census and survey to explore movement patterns, treatment histories, and infection status of high-risk individuals. • Qualitative assessment of participation in CDTI through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. • Participatory planning and action approach to enhance CDTI and provide doxycycline treatment of eligible infected individuals identified during surveys.

Results:

Preliminary findings: • Combining GIS exploration and community knowledge increases geographical coverage; 19 communities were identified, and 3,338 individuals were censused. • Variation in CDTI participation between population groups is influenced by the level of awareness, availability, issues of side effects, programme reach, and movement dynamics. Miners participated the least, with only 21.1% reporting receiving ivermectin >10 times, compared to 50.4% of farmers. • Additionally, affected and least-served communities were highlighted. • Action plans have been developed and are being implemented to improve CDTI. Infected individuals from past and current surveys are offered doxycycline.

Conclusion:

This study demonstrates a methodology for investigating and addressing areas of persistent high onchocerciasis infection and improving the reach of CDTI. It is an appropriate option where transmission persists despite over 20 years of CDTI.

Submission Date:

