

Parasitologic impact of different mass drug administration strategies against *Schistosoma mansoni* in endemic areas of Mwanza Region, Tanzania, where prevalence is 25% or above

Submission date 14/12/2015	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 14/12/2015	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 20/01/2023	Condition category Infections and Infestations	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Schistosomiasis is a chronic (long-term) infection caused by parasites that live in fresh water (for example, rivers and lakes) in tropical and subtropical countries. Symptoms of the disease vary widely and can be fairly mild (fever, skin rash, coughing) or more serious (passing blood in diarrhoea or urine, vomiting blood, stomach pains, paralysis of the legs). Over 90% of cases occur in Africa. The World Health Organisation wants to treat 75% of the population at risk of schistosomiasis infection by 2020 and preventive treatment (chemotherapy) will increase massively as a result. In Tanzania, where both *S. mansoni* and *S. haematobium* are endemic and many people suffer from intestinal or urogenital schistosomiasis (schistosomiasis affecting the urinary and genital organs) no large-scale preventive chemotherapy programme had been set up before the start of this study. We want to investigate which combination of annual praziquantel treatments (given in schools or in communities) and 'drug holidays' (when no treatment is given) is the most successful for the lowest cost.

Who can participate?

Schoolchildren aged 9-12 years and first-year students in years 1 and 5 attending the selected schools.

What does the study involve?

Participating schools are randomly allocated into one of six groups.

Group 1: School-age children and adults are treated with praziquantel once a year for the 4 years of the study

Group 2: School-age children and adults are treated for the first two years of the study and only school-age children are treated for the last two years

Group 3: School-age children and adults are treated for the first two years of the study and receive no treatment in the last two years

Group 4: School-age children are treated every year

Group 5: School-age children are treated for the first two years

Group 6: School-age children are treated for the first year and the third year
Any changes in the prevalence and intensity (severity of infection) of *S. mansoni* infection are measured over the 4 years of the study.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Not provided at time of registration

Where is the study run from?
National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
November 2010 to December 2016

Who is funding the study?
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (USA)

Who is the main contact?
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Contact information

Type(s)
Public

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title
Parasitologic impact of different mass drug administration strategies against *Schistosoma mansoni* in endemic areas of Mwanza Region, Tanzania, where prevalence is 25% or above

Acronym

Study objectives

The implementation of preventive chemotherapy with the anti-schistosomal drug praziquantel in school-aged children (exclusion of children <5 years), and in adults randomized to study arms either receiving treatment every year, or alternating with drug holidays in years 2 and 4 or drug holidays in years 3 and 4, will more cost-effectively gain the control of prevalence and morbidity due to *Schistosoma mansoni* infection in areas with high endemicity (prevalence: >25%) in Tanzanian than the implementation of four yearly rounds of annual chemotherapy in school-aged children.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

NIMR/HQ/R.8a/Vol.IX/1022, 08/10/2010

Study design

Multi-centre randomized intervention trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Neglected Tropical Disease, Schistosomiasis

Interventions

In the first step, in-depth parasitological surveys are carried out to identify 150 schools where the prevalence of *S. mansoni* (i.e., number of infections) amongst schoolchildren is greater than 24%. Prevalence during this eligibility step is measured using Kato-Katz thick smears from 50 children aged 13-14 years per locality.

Each school is then randomly allocated into one of six groups.

Group 1: School-age children and adults are treated with praziquantel once a year for the 4 years of the study

Group 2: School-age children and adults are treated for the first two years of the study and only school-age children are treated for the last two years

Group 3: School-age children and adults are treated for the first two years of the study and receive no treatment in the last two years

Group 4: School-age children are treated every year

Group 5: School-age children are treated for the first two years

Group 6: School-age children are treated for the first year and the third year

Three days of consecutive parasitological surveys are carried out before each treatment to assess any changes to the prevalence and intensity (severity of infection) of *S. mansoni* infection over time. The praziquantel is administered by trained teachers to all children aged 5-15 years in schools and by drug distributors in the community MDA venues.

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Praziquantel

Primary outcome(s)

Identification of the most cost-effective strategy that is able to reduce *S. mansoni* infection from high prevalence levels measured by change in prevalence and intensity of *Schistosoma mansoni* infection in 9- to 12-year-old children over the four years of intervention.

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Prevalence and intensity of *S. mansoni* infections in 9- to-12- year-old schoolchildren, using Kato-Katz thick smears
2. Prevalence and intensity of *S. mansoni* infections in first-year schoolchildren, using Kato-Katz thick smears
3. Control of morbidity due to *S. mansoni* (reduction of the prevalence to <10%) in the 150 schools
4. Identification of *S. mansoni* risk factors
5. Mapping and prediction of the distribution *S. mansoni* in Mwanza Region, Tanzania

Completion date

31/12/2016

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Schoolchildren, either male or female, aged 9-12 years, attending the selected schools (in each study year)
2. First-year students, either male or female, attending the selected schools (in years 1 and 5)
3. Written informed consent signed by parents or legal guardians of the schoolchildren
4. Oral assent from schoolchildren
5. At least one stool sample provided over three consecutive days from 9- to 12-year-old children each study year
6. At least one stool sample provided from first-year students and adults in years 1 and 5

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Mixed

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Children not aged 9-12 years (in years 2, 3 and 4)
2. Adults in Years 2, 3 and 4
3. Children under 9 in Years 2, 3 and 4
4. No written informed consent by parents or legal guardians of schoolchildren
5. No oral assent given by schoolchildren
6. No stool sample provided (for 9- to 12-year-old children in each study year; for first-year students and adults in years 1 and 5)

Date of first enrolment

24/11/2010

Date of final enrolment

31/12/2016

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Tanzania

Study participating centre

National Institute for Medical Research

Mwanza

Tanzania

33100

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Georgia Research Foundation / SCORE (USA)

ROR

<https://ror.org/00te3t702>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Charity

Funder Name

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Alternative Name(s)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates Foundation, Gates Learning Foundation, William H. Gates Foundation, BMGF, B&MGF, GF

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location

United States of America

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

Not provided at time of registration

IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/07/2020	11/02/2021	Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol and baseline data	26/05/2016		Yes	No
Interim results article	Protocol and baseline data for a multi-year cohort study of the effects of different mass drug treatment approaches on functional morbidities from schistosomiasis in four African countries	29/09/2017	20/01/2023	Yes	No
Other publications	Challenges in Protocol Development and Interpretation of the Schistosomiasis Consortium for Operational Research and Evaluation Intervention Studies	12/05/2020	20/01/2023	Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes