

**Table 1: Recommended Doses of Ivermectin in Mass Treatment**

Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	No. of Tablets (3 mg)
15–25	90–119	1
26–44	120–140	2
45–64	141–158	3
65 or more	159 or more	4

**Table 2: Treatment Approaches Based on Endemicity Levels**

Hyper-endemic (40+% nodule carriers)	Mass treatment (CDTI)
Meso-endemic (20–39% nodule carriers)	
Hypo-endemic (<20% nodule carriers)	Clinic-based treatment
Non endemic	No treatment

facing ivermectin-based control, therefore, is to develop and implement simple methods of ivermectin delivery which can be sustained by the communities themselves. Hence the attractiveness of CDTI.

The risk of resistance to ivermectin is remote within the time frame of the proposed Programme. However, the history of parasite disease control based on chemotherapy suggests that a cautious approach should be adopted. Recent model simulations and molecular biological studies indicate that resistance could become a problem over a twenty- to thirty-year time period, despite the long generation time of *O. volvulus*. It is important, therefore, to continue the development of alternative drugs for the treatment of onchocerciasis.

### Macrofilaricide: Moxidectin

The development of a macrofilaricide drug is currently being undertaken through the *MACROFIL* project, a WHO based project which aims to develop a macrofilaricide, i.e., one which kills the adult worms.

Of the many candidate drug compounds that been tested and identified so far, moxidectin, has shown to be the most promising.

Final results of moxidectin trials in animal models were reviewed by WHO in March 2000. These pre-clinical studies have shown it to fulfil many of the criteria for a potential macrofilaricide: easy to use, safe and effective.

At present moxidectin is only available in veterinary formulations, but plans are under way to start clinical trials in humans.

### References

- 1 Report of WHO Expert Committee, Technical Report Series No. 852. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1995.
- 2 Epidemiology of Onchocerciasis. Report of WHO Expert Committee, Technical Report Series No. 752. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1987.
- 3 Duke BOL. Onchocerciasis. In Johnson GJ, Minassian DC, Weale R (eds.). The Epidemiology of Eye Disease, London, pp 227–247, 1998.
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- 5 Benton B. Economic impact of onchocerciasis control through the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control: An overview. *Ann Trop Med Parasitol* 1998; **92**(1): S33–S39.
- 6 Ety'ale DE. Mectizan as a stimulus for the development of novel partnerships: the international organization's perspective. *Ann Trop Med Parasitol* 1998; **92**(1): S73–S77.

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Exam	Dates of examination	Location	Closing date
<b>Part 1 MRCOphth</b>	23–24 April	<b>UK, India</b>	12 March
	8–9 October	<b>UK, India, Egypt</b>	27 August
<b>Part 2 MRCOphth</b>	18–22 June	<b>UK</b>	7 May
	10–11 October	<b>India</b>	27 August
	5–9 November	<b>UK</b>	24 September
<b>Part 3 MRCOphth</b>	12–15 March	<b>UK</b>	29 January
	17–21 September	<b>UK</b>	6 August
	11–12 October	<b>India</b>	27 August
<b>DRCOphth</b>	25–28 June	<b>UK</b>	14 May
	19–20 November	<b>UK</b>	8 October

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