

Global access to Benzimidazoles: preliminary results of an ongoing survey



Leonardo Uchiumi

In behalf of WHO-Informal Working Group on Echinococcosis



- ✓ Until the end of the **20th century**, **surgery** was considered the **only** treatment option for cystic echinococcosis.
- ✓ **Ultrasound** for *screening* and for *staging*, and **antiparasitic** treatment with benzimidazoles are the 2 most significant advances of recent times in the diagnosis and treatment of CE.
- ✓ **Today**, **three therapeutic options**: invasive treatment (percutaneous/surgery), antiparasitic, watch & wait.

***Is ULTRASOUND
available/accessible to our target population?***

- ✓ **Ultrasound** is the technique of choice for the initial diagnosis, in both the clinical and field screening settings, and for the staging of hepatic CE.
- ✓ **Ultrasound** today: **portable, mobile and affordable** (basic equipment B&W 1500-3000 USD). Need to train physicians (rural or general practitioners) by **FASE training course**.

***Is ANTI-INFECTIVE
available/accessible to our target population?***

- ✓ **Anti-infective treatment (albendazole, mebendazole, praziquantel):** unknown scenario and high suspect of **inequity to access**.

- WHO-IWGE is very concerned that the anti-infective treatment is not available in many countries in the regular health care system (health services and pharmacies).
- ✓ WHO-IWGE conducted a survey with the aim to make a diagnosis of the availability and accessibility of antiparasitic treatment for CE and AE.

Echinococcosis and primary health care in an endemic area

TYPE OF PREVENTION		ACTOR	MEASURES AND STRATEGIES
PRIMARY	PREVENTION	Sanitary agent Education General practitioner Veterinarian	Dog deworming Continuous health education Dog and livestock control
SECONDARY	SCREENING	General practitioner trainee in ultrasound screening	Early diagnosis during ultrasound screening
TERTIARY	TREATMENT	General practitioner trainee in ultrasound screening	Anti-infective treatment (albendazole)
		Surgeon Interventional therapy	Surgery Percutaneous treatment

First step: 196 emails sent

Answer YES to participate in Step 2: 80

Answer to Step 2 at 25/10/19: 30

No major concerns about with:

- ✓ Majority use WHO guidelines.
- ✓ Indications (pre/post invasive or for medical treatment).
- ✓ Doses.
- ✓ Duration of post-procedure treatment.
- ✓ Duration of medical treatment.
- ✓ Continuous administration (no by cycles).

Further studies or investigations needed

- ✓ Duration of preinterventional

STEP2 : ONLINE SURVEY

Survey Monkey



World Health Organization
Informal Working Group on Echinococcosis (WHO-IWGE) &
Department Neglected Tropical Diseases WHO

Availability of albendazole for the treatment of cystic and alveolar
echinococcosis. STEP2

Dear colleague

Thanks for your interest to participate in the 2nd step of the survey. Very best
regards.

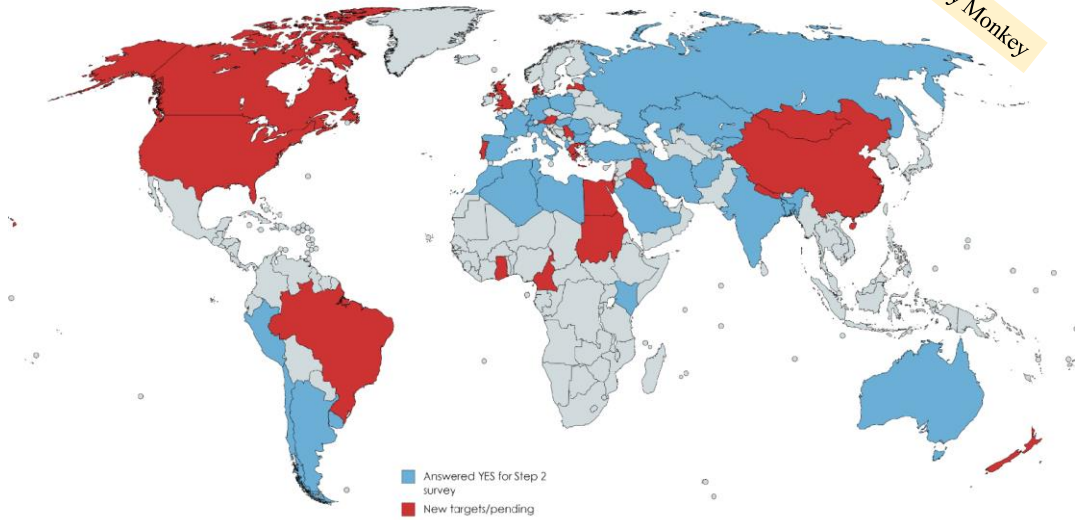
Thomas Junghans and Okan Akhan, Chairs of the WHO Informal Working Group
Echinococcosis (WHO-IWGE).
Bernadette Abela-Ridder, Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases, WHO,
Geneva.

<https://it.surveymonkey.com/r/Y29DVQH>



STEP2 : ONLINE SURVEY

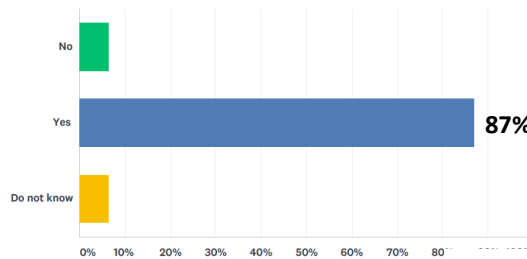
Survey Monkey



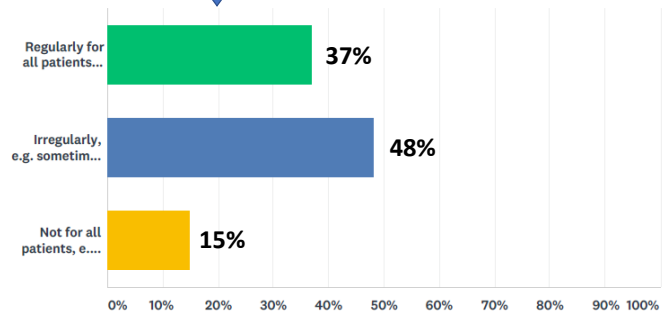
<https://it.surveymonkey.com/r/Y29DVQH>

Q1 Q1-1: Is albendazole generally available in your COUNTRY?
(locally produced or imported)

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

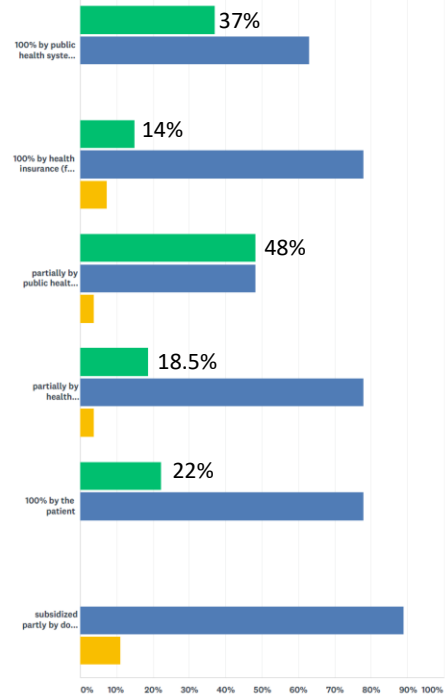


- ✓ Is highly available
- ✓ Only regular available for all: 37%



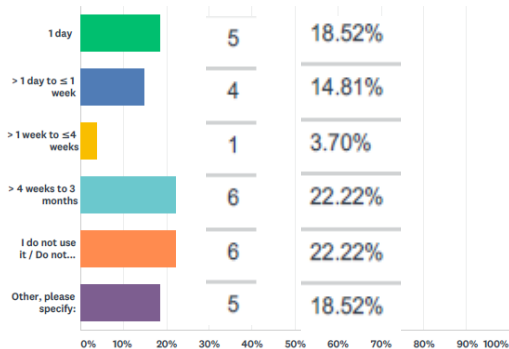
Q3 Q1-2: Who pays for the albendazole drugs? (check all answers and answer each individual question with 'yes' or 'no' or 'do not know')

	YES	NO	DO NOT KNOW	TOTAL
100% by public health system (free of charge for patients)	37.04% 10	62.96% 17	0.00% 0	27
100% by health insurance (free of charge for patients)	14.81% 4	77.78% 21	7.41% 2	27
partially by public health system	48.15% 13	48.15% 13	3.70% 1	27
partially by health insurance	18.52% 5	77.78% 21	3.70% 1	27
100% by the patient	22.22% 6	77.78% 21	0.00% 0	27
subsidized partly by donor organization	0.00% 0	88.89% 24	11.11% 3	27

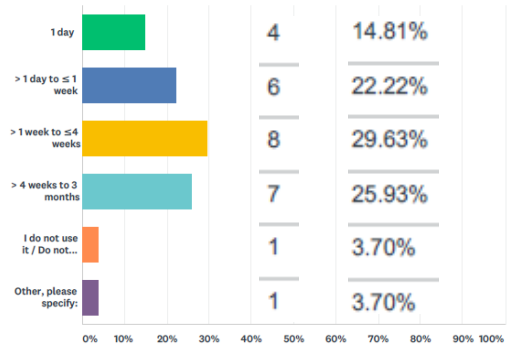


Q12 Q2-4 a: Use of albendazole in CE: how long is the PRE-interventional treatment (PERCUTANEOUS)?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 4



Q13 Q2-4 b: Use of albendazole in CE: how long is the PRE-interventional treatment (SURGICAL)?



Country	Cost (400 mg pill)	3 months (adult 800 mg/day)	4 months (adult 800 mg/day)	% difference	Brand name	Manufact. company
Iran	0.02	3.6	4.8		Bendex	Cipla Ltd.
Bangladesh	0.06	10.8	14.4	200	Albizole	Opsonin
Argentina	0.38	68.4	91.2	1800	Generic	PROFARSE
Hungary	0.8	144	192	3900	Eskazol	GSK
Argentina	1.67	300.6	400.8	8250	Nematel	Elea Phoenix
Spain	1.75	315	420	8650	Eskazole	GSK
Bulgaria	2.09	376.2	501.6	10350	Zentel	GSK
Italy*	2.4	432	576	11900	Zentel	GSK
Uruguay	4.4	792	1056	21900	Helmiben	CELSIUS
Poland	4.5	810	1080	22400	Zentel	GSK
Germany	11.36	2044.8	2726.4	56700	Eskazole	GSK
Switzerland	15	2700	3600	74900	Zentel	GSK

Final consideration

It is the responsibility and obligation of states to state public policies and protect the right to health of the whole population: Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality.