

Ivermectin safety in infants and children under 15 kg treated for scabies: A multicentric Observational study

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BACKGROUND: Scabies is a frequent condition in infants and children. Only topical treatments have been approved in infants but some of them are poorly tolerated. Oral ivermectin is approved for the treatment of scabies in several countries but its use in infants and children weighing < 15 kg is off-label.

OBJECTIVES: To assess the safety of ivermectin in infants and young children and to collect data on ivermectin efficacy in these age groups.

METHODS: This study was performed in the Dermatology and Paediatric Dermatology departments of 28 French centres between July 2012 and November 2015. Physicians treating an infant or child weighing < 15 kg for scabies with oral ivermectin were asked to send back a completed standardised and anonymous questionnaire. The data were subsequently analysed.

RESULTS: Data were collected on 170 infants and children ranging in age from 1 to 64 months, with body weight of 4 to 14.5 kg, who were treated with oral ivermectin. The mean received dose was 223 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ and 89% of the patients received a systematic second dose. Concomitant topical treatment was administered to 73% of patients. Adverse events were reported in seven patients (4%) and were not severe. At the follow-up visit, 139 (85%) patients had achieved healing. Factors significantly associated with healing were an ivermectin dose > 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ($p=0.0005$), and a delay between those two doses of < 10 days ($p=0.0247$).

CONCLUSIONS: Our findings suggest the safety and efficacy of ivermectin for the treatment of scabies in infants and young children. This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved.

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