



Efficacy of single and double doses of albendazole and mebendazole alone and in combination in the treatment of *Trichuris trichiura* infection in school aged children in Uganda

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**EFFICACY OF SINGLE AND DOUBLE DOSES OF ALBENDAZOLE AND
MEBENDAZOLE ALONE AND IN COMBINATION IN THE TREATMENT OF
TRICHURIS TRICHIURA INFECTION IN SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN IN UGANDA.**

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Abstract

Studies indicate that albendazole and mebendazole show low cure rates and egg reduction rates when given against *Trichuris trichiura*. In a randomized controlled clinical trial *T. trichiura* infected pupils were divided into six groups of 100 pupils. Two groups received a single dose of either albendazole, 400 mg (A) or mebendazole, 500 mg (M), while two groups received a double dose (given 6-8 hours apart) of either albendazole (A-A) or mebendazole (M-M). The last two groups received a combination of albendazole and mebendazole given as a single dose (AM) or with 6-8 hours apart (AM-AM). Egg counts were performed at baseline and at 7, 14, 21 and 28 days after treatment. Preliminary results showed that the prevalence and intensity (geometric mean of all investigated) of *T. trichiura* in children who received a single and a double dose of the combination (AM and AM-AM) were similar, but significantly lower than that of the other treatment arms. The study indicates that although albendazole and mebendazole are both benzimidazoles and their mode of actions are believed to be similar, the use of a combination of the two drugs seemed to be much more effective than using the single drug therapy.