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ILEP Technical Forum: New Evidence from Leprosy Research

Wednesday, 24th March 2010
London, UK



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3. Chemotherapy (E. Declercq)

Recent evidence

1. Common 6-month duration regimen for PB and MB leprosy:

- WHO trial in progress with 2,094 PB and 1,302 MB patients
- Controlled trials in Brazil and Bangladesh
- Study in Secunderabad, India: 6-month MDT too short for MB leprosy?



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Recent evidence

2. Single dose ROM for PB leprosy:

- 2 controlled trials for patients with 1 to 3 or 2 to 3 skin lesions:
Results not statistically different, but:
- small sample sizes
 - short follow-up
 - cure more frequent with WHO-MDT



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Recent evidence

3. Others

Bactericidal activity of fluoroquinolones against *M. leprae* confirmed



Possible role in more potent MDT regimes



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Recommendations for further research

- Follow-up of ongoing U-MDT trials
- Risk of relapse after 12-month MDT for MB leprosy
- Trials of new and shorter MDT regimens with highly bactericidal drugs
- New drugs or new regimens in case of resistance or intolerance to Rifampicin