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Efficacy of diethylcarbamazine and thiabendazole in albendazole and mebendazole resistant toxocariasis

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Human infections with *Toxocaracanis* and *cati* are clinically important subjects and a frequent cause of misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis. Despite the recognition of toxocariasis as an important clinical illness there have been few reviews of therapy for these infections and no definitive treatment protocols have been published, especially in albendazole and mebendazole resistant cases. Only a handful of agents have been used in therapy, and the agents which are available may vary in significantly in efficacy and have adverse effects or be contraindicated in certain clinical situations. When evaluating the clinical efficacy of agents used against toxocara infections, it is difficult to compare studies. They vary as to entry methodology (whether randomization was done and if treatment was blinded or open), population studied (children, adults), syndromes treated: visceral larva migrans (VLM), covert toxocariasis- milder version of VLM and ocular larva migrans (OLM), measures (clinical efficacy and/or blood results negativity), and duration of follow-up. Nevertheless, conclusions may be drawn from the studies when viewed as a whole, and statements can be made about the relative efficacy of the agents. In this paper we present our own experiences and initial results about the efficacy of agents currently used for the treatment of toxocariasis in albendazole and mebendazole resistant cases. The total of 58 patients primarily treated with albendazole and/ or mebendazole were treated with two of the medicines most commonly used for resistant cases of this infection. 26 with visceral larva migrans, 26 with covert toxocariasis and 6 with ocular larva migrans. Diethylcarbamazine and thiabendazole were used in their usual posologic schedules. The total cure rates achieved with diethylcarbamazine and thiabendazole were, respectively: 75% and 70% in VLM patients, 85% and 80% in covert toxocariasis. We did not achieve any clinical efficacy or blood results negativity in patients with OLM. Side effects were of minor importance both in patients treated with thiabendazole and diethylcarbamazine.

Biography

Wojciech Ozimek is a MD Paediatrician, Independent lecturer, researcher and media expert in parasitic and vector-borne diseases in Warsaw, Masovian District, Poland..

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