

Additional File 1

to

The pipeline for drugs for control and elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases: 1. Anti-infective drugs for regulatory registration

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Table of Contents

Tables	3
Table S1: Source trial registries and last import date into the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform as of 8 October 2021	3
Table S2: Anti-infective drugs, core strategic interventions and gaps in anti-infective drugs as per Roadmap	4
Table S3: Cure and egg reduction rates in Phase 2 studies evaluating moxidectin efficacy against <i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i> , <i>Trichuris trichiura</i> and concomitant helminths; and against <i>Schistosoma haematobium</i> and <i>S. mansoni</i>	21
1 Anti-infective drugs for diseases for which preventive chemotherapy is the main strategic core intervention strategy.....	23
1.1 Ivermectin.....	24
1.2 Albendazole, mebendazole and triclabendazole	24
1.3 Diethylcarbamazine.....	25
1.4 Praziquantel.....	25
1.5 Azithromycin.....	26
1.6 Benzathine penicillin	26
1.7 Topical scabicides	26

1.7.1	Permethrin	26
1.7.2	Benzyl benzoate	27
1.7.3	Malathion.....	27
1.7.4	Sulphur ointment	27
2	Anti-infective drugs for diseases for which case management is the main control- and elimination strategy.....	28
2.1	Antibiotics.....	28
2.1.1	Rifampicin	28
2.1.2	Dapsone	28
2.1.3	Clofazimine.....	28
2.1.4	Clarithromycin.....	29
2.1.5	Moxifloxacin.....	29
2.1.6	Tetracycline.....	29
2.2	Anti-trypanosomal drugs.....	29
2.2.1	Fexinidazole	29
2.2.2	Pentamidine	30
2.2.3	Suramin	30
2.2.4	Melarsoprol.....	31
2.2.5	Eflornithine	31
2.2.6	Benznidazole	32
2.2.7	Nifurtimox.....	32
2.3	Antileishmanial drugs.....	32
2.3.1	Pentavalent antimoniate	32
2.3.2	Amphotericin B and liposomal amphotericin B.....	33
2.3.3	Miltefosine	33
2.3.4	Paromomycin	34
2.4	Antifungal drugs	34
2.4.1	Itraconazole	34
3	References.....	34

Tables

Table S1: Source trial registries and last import date into the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform as of 8 October 2021

Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry	5 July 2021
Chinese Clinical Trial Registry	5 July 2021
ClinicalTrials.gov	5 July 2021
EU Clinical Trials Register (EU-CTR)	5 July 2021
ISRCTN	5 July 2021
The Netherlands National Trial Register	5 July 2021
Brazilian Clinical Trials Registry (ReBec)	24 June 2021
Clinical Trials Registry - India	24 May 2021,
Clinical Research Information Service - Republic of Korea	24 June 2021
Cuban Public Registry of Clinical Trials	21 June 2021
German Clinical Trials Register	21 June 2021
Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials	22 June 2021
Japan Primary Registries Network	15 June 2021
Pan African Clinical Trial Registry	21 June 2021
Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry	21 June 2021
Thai Clinical Trials Registry (TCTR)	21 June 2021
Peruvian Clinical Trials Registry (REPEC)	28 June 2021
Lebanese Clinical Trials Registry (LBCTR)	21 June 2021

Table S2: Anti-infective drugs, core strategic interventions and gaps in anti-infective drugs as per Roadmap

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
NTDs targeted for eradication			
Dracunculiasis (Guinea worm) · <i>Dracunculus medinensis</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/dracunculiasis	None	· NA Selected core interventions WASH · Village-based active surveillance for rapid case detection and containment · Communication for behavioral impact · Vector control · Tethering of dogs to prevent contamination of the environment [1, 2]	Drugs to treat cases.
Yaws · <i>Treponema pallidum pertenue</i> https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/yaws	Azithromycin EML: oral liquid 200 mg per 5 mL; 250 mg, and 500 mg oral solid capsule (anhydrous). Benzathine benzylpenicillin EML: IM 900 mg in vial benzylpenicillin powder for injection (= 1.2 million IU); 1.44 g in vial benzylpenicillin powder for injection (= 2.4 million IU), indications do not include Yaws [1]	Preventive chemotherapy · Initial Total community treatment (TCT): single oral azithromycin (30 mg/kg to maximum of 2g) or · Total targeted treatment (TTT, all active clinical cases and contacts during repeat surveys or in response to localized outbreak): single oral azithromycin (30 mg/kg), liquid formulation for <6 year old children may be available to replace crushing tablets and mixing with water. Eligible population: ≥6 months, including pregnant and breastfeeding women. IM Benzathine penicillin (0.6 m units for < 10 years, 1.2 m units for ≥10 years) for people who cannot be treated with azithromycin, fail azithromycin or when azithromycin is not available Treatment · Azithromycin (single oral dose) at 30 mg/kg (maximum 2 g) is the preferred treatment. · Benzathine penicillin (single intramuscular dose) at 0.6 million units (children aged under 10 years) and 1.2 million units (people aged over 10 years) can be used for patients with suspected clinical treatment failure after azithromycin, or patients who cannot be treated with azithromycin. [3, 4, 5]	

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
NTDs targeted for elimination (interruption of transmission)			
Human African trypanosomiasis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Trypanosoma brucei gambiense</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/human-african-trypanosomiasis	Fexinidazole EML: 600 mg oral solid. Eflornithine EML: IV: 100 mg per mL in 100 mL bottle (hydrochloride). Nifurtimox EML: 120 mg tablet Pentamidine EML: IM, 200 mg (as isethionate) powder for injection.	Case management Patients aged ≥ 6 years and body weight ≥ 20 kg AND in first-(haemo-lymphatic) stage or non-severe second-(neurological) stage (WBC in CSF $< 100/\mu\text{L}$) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral fexinidazole, 10 days, weight category dependent dosing Patients in severe second-stage (WBC in CSF $\geq 100/\mu\text{L}$) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NECT: Oral nifurtimox 5mg/kg TID 10 days, eflornithine 400 mg/kg 7 days Children aged < 6 years or body weight < 20 kg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st stage disease: IM pentamidine, 4 mg/kg 2nd stage disease: NECT Pregnant and lactating women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd, 3rd trimester: fexinidazole or pentamidine If clinical condition does not allow to delay treatment, fexinidazole, eflornithine monotherapy or NECT, [6] Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASH Vector control Treatment of animals (cattle, pigs) 	Safe and efficient single oral dose for both stages (e.g. acoziborole) to help integration of treatment into primary health system Oral formulation for age group < 6 years
Leprosy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mycobacterium leprae</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/leprosy	Rifampicin EML: 150 mg and 300 mg oral solid. Dapsone EML: 25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg tablet. Clofazimine EML: 50 mg and 100 mg oral solid.	Case management Treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multibacillary: 12 months treatment, rifampicin, dapsone, clofazimine (doses age dependent) [7] Paucibacillary: 6 months treatment, rifampicin, dapsone (doses age dependent) [7] Treatment of drug-resistant leprosy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rifampicin resistance: at least two of the following second-line drugs: clarithromycin, minocycline or a quinolone (ofloxacin, levofloxacin or moxifloxacin), plus clofazimine daily for 6 months, followed by clofazimine plus one of the second-line drugs daily for an additional 18 months [7] 	New effective medicine or combinations

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rifampicin and ofloxacin resistance: clarithromycin, minocycline and clofazimine for 6 months followed by clarithromycin or minocycline plus clofazimine for an additional 18 months [7] <p>Chemoprophylaxis (contacts of leprosy patients, ≥ 2 years upon consent of index case to disclose the disease and adequate management of contacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single dose rifampicin [7] 	
<p>Onchocerciasis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Onchocerca volvulus</i> <p>https://www.who.int/health-topics/onchocerciasis</p>	<p>Ivermectin</p> <p>EML: 3mg tablet (scored).</p>	<p>Preventive chemotherapy</p> <p>Depending on pre-control endemicity in combination with (1) co-endemicity of loiasis due to risk of adverse reactions to ivermectin in individuals very high <i>Loa loa</i> microfilaraemia and (2) co-endemicity with lymphatic filariasis (LF, see recommendations for LF below)</p> <p>Onchocerciasis meso- or hyperendemic areas (prevalence of onchocercal nodules among men >20%)</p> <p>Areas without loiasis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once to twice yearly single dose of ivermectin [1, 8, 9]. <p>Areas with loiasis co-endemicity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Loa loa</i> microfilaraemia prevalence <20% or RAPLOA prevalence <40% [8, 10] <i>Loa loa</i> microfilaraemia prevalence ≥20% or RAPLOA prevalence ≥40%: Ivermectin MDA after preparation as per [8] and adaptation of treatment strategy depending on number and treatment coverage of prior ivermectin MDA rounds and occurrence of serious adverse reactions. <p>Onchocerciasis hypoendemic areas (with or without loiasis):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual, clinic-based ivermectin treatment [8, 11] <p>WHO is preparing for new guidance for onchocerciasis elimination strategies for hypoendemic areas where loiasis is co-endemic [1] considering the recommendations of its advisory committees [1, 12, 13].</p> <p>Dose: 150µg/kg</p> <p>Eligible population excludes: < 90 cm, too sick to be treated (i.e. present for treatment), women having given birth in the last week, pregnant women (note those</p>	<p>Macrofilaricide.</p> <p>Efficacy and safety of moxidectin in children and community settings.</p> <p>Safe drugs safe in <i>Loa loa</i> co-endemic areas</p>

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
		excluded should be treated as soon as the exclusion criterion is not met anymore) [11, 14]	
NTDs targeted for elimination as a public health problem			
Chagas disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/chagas-disease	Benznidazole EML: 12.5 mg tablet, 50 mg tablet (scored), and 100 mg tablet. Nifurtimox EML: 30 mg tablet, 120 mg tablet, and 250 mg tablet.	Case management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benznidazole or nifurtimox treatment to cure infection during acute or early chronic phase, prevent or curb disease progression, in cases of congenital infection • Acute cases: 60 day treatment with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first option - Benznidazole 7.5-10 mg/kg/day for ≤40 kg, 5-7 mg/kg/day for >40 kg in 2-3 fractional daily doses • second option – Nifurtimox 10-15 mg/kg/day for ≤40 kg, 8-10 mf/kg/day for >40 kg in 2-3 fractional doses/day • Congenital cases: 60 day treatment with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First option – Benznidazole 10 mg/kg/ day in 2 to 3 fractional daily doses • Second option – Nifurtimox 10-15 mg/kg in 2 to 3 fractional daily doses • Recent chronic infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benznidazole 7.5 mg/kg/day for ≤40 kg, 5 mg/kg/day for >40 kg in 2-3 fractional daily doses Benznidazole ineligible cases: pregnant women, people with kidney or liver failure, chronic cases with specific organ damage Nifurtimox ineligible cases: pregnant women, people with kidney or liver failure, background of neurological or psychiatric disorders, chronic cases with specific organ damage [1, 15, 16] Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of disease manifestations • Treatment of women of childbearing potential to prevent congenital transmission • WASH • Vector control • Blood screening 	Dosage and duration of benznidazole and nifurtimox treatment, combination treatment, new drugs

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
Human African trypanosomiasis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>T. brucei rhodesiense</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/human-african-trypanosomiasis	Suramin sodium EML: IV, 1 g in vial. Melarsoprol EML: IV, 3.6% in 5 mL in ampoule as solution (180 mg active compound).	Case management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First stage: Suramin (test dose 4-5 mg/kg day 1, 20 mg/kg every 7 days for 5 weeks (maximum dose/injection 1g) Second stage: Melarsoprol 2.2 mg/kg per day for 10 days [17] Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASH Vector control Treatment of animals (cattle, pigs) 	Safe, efficient treatments (e.g., fexinidazole, acoziborole) to replace toxic arsenic-based melarsoprol.
Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Leishmania donovani</i> <i>L. infantum</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/leishmaniasis	Pentavalent antimonials EML: Meglumin antimoniate, IM, 30% in 5 mL ampoule (81 mg/ml), equivalent to about 8.1% antimonate, Sodium stibogluconate, IM-IV, 30-ml vial of 100 mg/ml Liposomal amphotericin B EML: IV, 50 mg powder for injection in vial as liposomal complex. Paromomycin EML: IM, 750 mg paromomycin as sulfate. Miltefosine EML: 10 mg and 50 mg tablet	The treatment of leishmaniasis depends on various factors, e.g., disease, concomitant pathologies, parasite species, and location [1]. Case management for visceral leishmaniasis (VL) based on national guidelines [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>L. infantum</i>: pentavalent antimonials, liposomal amphotericin B <i>L. donovani</i>: pentavalent antimonials, liposomal amphotericin B, paromomycin, miltefosine For details and ranking of treatment options by causative species and region by the WHO Expert Committee on the Control of Leishmaniases, 2010 see [17] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV co-infected patients in patients in East Africa and South-East Asia: liposomal amphotericin B + miltefosine [18, 19, 20] WHO is working on expanding guidance [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vector control Early diagnosis and treatment 	New, safe, cheap oral drugs not requiring cold chain. Shorter first line regimens in East Africa. More treatment options including combination treatments to mitigate risk of resistance.
Trachoma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/trachoma	Azithromycin EML: 1.5% Eye drops (solution); oral liquid 200 mg per 5 mL; 250 mg, and	Preventive chemotherapy Evaluation units in which the prevalence of trachomatous inflammation—follicular (TF) among 1–9-year-old children is $\geq 5\%$:	-

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
	500 mg oral solid capsule (anhydrous) Tetracycline EML: 1% (hydrochloride) eye ointment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual MDA of oral azithromycin (20 mg/kg) offered to all aged ≥ 6 months, until TF prevalence drops to $< 5\%$. If azithromycin is unavailable or contraindicated: tetracycline eye ointment BID to both eyes for 6 weeks. Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgery for trachomatous trichiasis Facial cleanliness Environmental improvement, specifically improvements in access to water and sanitation [21, 22, 23, 24] 	
Lymphatic filariasis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Wuchereria bancrofti</i> <i>Brugia malayi</i> <i>Brugia timori</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/lymphatic-filariasis	Ivermectin EML: 3mg tablet (scored) Diethylcarbamazine EML: 50mg and 100 mg tablet. Albendazole EML: 400 mg tablet (chewable)	Preventive chemotherapy Depending on (1) co-endemicity of loiasis and onchocerciasis due to risk of adverse reactions to ivermectin and diethylcarbamazine and (2) status of MDA programme. Countries without onchocerciasis or loiasis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual diethylcarbamazine (6 mg/kg) with 400 mg albendazole (DA) Annual Ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine plus albendazole (IDA) in areas with less than four two drug treatment rounds; not having met stopping criteria with DA despite having met coverage targets; with infections suggesting local transmission post MDA or post-validation. [25] Eligible population excludes pregnant women, children under 2 years of age, and the severely ill. [11] Countries with onchocerciasis (due to risks of ocular adverse reactions to diethylcarbamazine in <i>O. volvulus</i> infected individuals, for review (Awadzi et al., 2015)) in areas without loiasis co-endemicity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual ivermectin (150-200 ug/kg) with 400 mg albendazole (IA), except in areas where biannual ivermectin treatment is being delivered for onchocerciasis [25] Eligible population excludes pregnant women, children < 90 cm (≈ 15 kg), severely ill individuals [11] Countries with onchocerciasis where loiasis is co-endemic (due to risks of severe adverse reactions to ivermectin in individuals with high <i>Loa loa</i> microfilaraemia, [26, 27])	Macrofilaricide, drug safe in <i>Loa loa</i> infected individuals

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biannual albendazole (400 mg) in loiasis co-endemic areas where ivermectin has not already been distributed for onchocerciasis or LF [28] <p>Eligible population excludes children in the 1st year of life; pregnant women in the 1st trimester of pregnancy. [11]</p> <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <p>Vector management in appropriate settings (in particular where <i>Loa loa</i> co-endemicity prohibits ivermectin use [28])</p>	
<p>Schistosomiasis</p> <p>Intestinal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>S. japonicum</i> <i>S. mansoni</i> <i>S. mekongi</i> <p>Urinary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>S. haematobium</i> <p>https://www.who.int/health-topics/schistosomiasis</p>	<p>Praziquantel</p> <p>EML: 600 mg tablet.</p>	<p>Preventive chemotherapy</p> <p>Endemic communities with $\geq 10\%$ <i>Schistosoma</i> spp infection prevalence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual treatment with a single dose of all ≥ 2 years of age targeting $\geq 75\%$ treatment coverage Consideration should be given to twice yearly preventive chemotherapy in areas with demonstrated lack of appropriate response to annual preventive chemotherapy or high endemicity areas with baseline prevalence $\geq 50\%$ in school-age children <p>Endemic communities with $< 10\%$ <i>Schistosoma</i> spp infection prevalence with ongoing preventive chemotherapy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation with same or reduced frequency towards interruption of transmission <p>Test and treat approach</p> <p>In endemic communities with $< 10\%$ <i>Schistosoma</i> spp infection</p> <p>Dose: 40 mg/kg, based on height pole for people ≥ 94 cm or ≥ 4 years</p> <p>Eligible population: all ≥ 2 years, including pregnant women after the first trimester and lactating women [11, 29]</p>	<p>Improved praziquantel and pediatric formulation.</p> <p>New drugs to complement praziquantel in case of resistance.</p>
<p>Soil-transmitted helminthiasis including strongyloidiasis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i> Hookworms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ancylostoma duodenale</i> 	<p>Albendazole</p> <p>EML: 400 mg tablet (chewable).</p> <p>Mebendazole</p> <p>EML: 100 mg tablet (chewable),</p>	<p>Preventive chemotherapy</p> <p><i>A. lumbricoides</i>, <i>T. trichiura</i>, <i>Ancylostoma duodenale</i>, <i>Necator americanus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual single-dose albendazole or mebendazole where baseline prevalence of any soil-transmitted infection is 20% - 50% Biannual single-dose albendazole or mebendazole where baseline prevalence of any soil-transmitted infection is $> 50\%$ <p>Dose: albendazole 200 mg for 12-23 months, else 400 mg, mebendazole 500 mg</p>	<p>More effective medicines and drug combinations against <i>T. trichiura</i> and hookworm infections</p> <p>Drugs and drug combinations to be used</p>

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Necator americanus</i> · <i>Trichuris trichiura</i> · <i>Strongyloides stercoralis</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/soil-transmitted-helminthiases	and 500 mg tablet (chewable). Ivermectin EML: 3mg tablet (scored).	Eligible population: all young (12-23 months), preschool (24-59 months), school-age children, non-pregnant adolescent girls and women of reproductive age, pregnant women in 2nd and 3rd trimester, lactating women [11, 30] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WHO is preparing guidelines for addition of ivermectin where prevalence of <i>S. stercoralis</i> exceeds 10% and in areas with high prevalence of <i>T. trichiura</i> [1] Case management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Treatment of individuals living in areas endemic for STH and <i>S. stercoralis</i> [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WASH 	in case of emergence of drug resistance
Rabies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Rabies lyssavirus</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/rabies	None.	Case management of confirmed or suspected cases of human rabies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thorough wound washing · Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with the rabies vaccine immediately after exposure to a potentially rabid animal · Rabies immunoglobulin for category III exposures immediately after exposure to a potentially rabid animal · Palliative care Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Vaccination of dogs and dog population management · Vaccination of people at high risk of exposure to the rabies virus, e.g., laboratory staff working with the rabies virus, veterinarians and animal handlers [1, 31, 32] 	Monoclonal antibodies. Anti-virals and agents promoting entry of drugs, antibodies and immune effectors cells across the blood-brain barrier (World Health Organization, 2018g)
NTDs targeted for control			
Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Leishmania donovani</i> · <i>L. infantum</i> · <i>L. tropica</i> · <i>L. major</i> · <i>L. aethiopica</i> · <i>L. mexicana</i> · <i>L. amazonensis</i> 	Pentavalent antimoniate EML: Meglumin antimoniate, IM, 30% in 5 mL ampoule, equivalent to about 8.1% antimonate; Sodium stibogluconate, IM-IV, 30-ml vial of 100 mg/ml Liposomal amphotericin B	The treatment of leishmaniasis depends on various factors, e.g., disease, concomitant pathologies, parasite species, location and national guidelines [1]: Case management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Topical/intralesional treatment: pentavalent antimonials, paromomycin/methylbenzethonium chloride, cryotherapy, thermotherapy. · Systemic treatment: fluconazole, ketoconazole, liposomal amphotericin B, amphotericin B deoxycholate, pentamidine, pentavalent antimonials (with or without allopurinol), paromomycine, miltefosine. 	CL: oral/topical treatment suitable for health center and community level use.

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>L. venezuelensis</i> • <i>L. Viannia braziliensis</i> • <i>L. (V.) guyanensis</i> • <i>L. (V.) panamensis</i> • <i>L. (V.) peruviana</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/leishmaniasis	<p>EML: IV, 50 mg powder for injection in vial as liposomal complex.</p> <p>Paromomycin EML: IM, 750 mg paromomycin as sulfate.</p> <p>Miltefosine EML: 10 mg and 50 mg tablet</p>	<p>For dose regimens and ranking of treatment options by causative species and region by the WHO Expert Committee on the Control of Leishmaniases, 2010 see [33]</p> <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vector control • Early diagnosis and treatment 	
<p>Scabies and other ectoparasites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sarcoptes scabiei var hominis</i> <p>https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/scabies</p>	<p>Ivermectin EML: 3mg tablet (scored)</p> <p>Permethrin EML: topical, 1% lotion and 5% cream</p> <p>Benzyl benzoate EML: topical, 25% lotion</p> <p>Malathion ointment</p> <p>Sulfur ointment</p>	<p>Preventive chemotherapy [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDA with ivermectin. • Topical scabicides <p>WHO will be preparing guidelines taking into consideration the outcome of an informal consultation (World Health Organization, 2020b)</p> <p>Case management [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topical scabicides (permethrin, benzylbenzoate, malathion and sulfur ointment) • Ivermectin • Specialist case management of crusted scabies cases <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of household contacts • WASH 	<p>Determine efficacy of single dose IVM for programmatic use and safe dose in children <15 kg, <90 com or <5 years; Identify alternative strategies for ivermectin MDA including for loiasis co-endemic areas; Evaluate moxidectin [34]</p>
<p>Buruli ulcer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mycobacterium ulcerans</i> <p>https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/buruli-ulcer-(mycobacterium-ulcerans-infection)</p>	<p>Rifampicin EML: not listed for the indication</p> <p>Clarithromycin EML: not listed for the indication</p> <p>Moxifloxacin EML: not listed for the indication</p>	<p>Case management</p> <p>Direct Observed Treatment after laboratory confirmed diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any age, including in pregnancy: Oral rifampicin (10 mg/kg) daily for 8 weeks and oral clarithromycin (7.5 mg/kg) twice daily for 8 weeks (including for pregnant women) • Adults only: Oral rifampicin (10 mg/kg) once daily for 8 weeks and oral moxifloxacin (400 mg) by mouth once daily for 8 weeks. <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery (debridement, skin grafting, scar revision) 	<p>New treatment options with reduced treatment duration and lower toxicity, especially for children.</p>

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In case of joint involvement or movement limitation, appropriate positioning with frequent exercise. [35] 	
<p>Actinomycetoma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actinomycetoma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actinomadura Madura A. pelletieri Nocardia brasiliensis <p>https://www.who.int/health-topics/mycetoma-chromoblastomycosis-and-other-deep-mycoses</p>	<p>None specified</p> <p>EML: Indication not included</p>	<p>Case management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> long term treatment with antibiotic combinations Wound cleaning, dressing <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASH Protective clothing and shoes 	<p>Better treatment regimens (shorter duration, higher efficacy).</p>
<p>Eumycetoma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Madurella mycetomatis Mycetoma mycetomatis <p>https://www.who.int/health-topics/mycetoma-chromoblastomycosis-and-other-deep-mycoses</p>	<p>Itraconazole</p> <p>EML: Indication not included</p>	<p>Case management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antifungals (mainly itraconazole 400 mg/day) – combined with surgery Wound cleaning, dressing <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASH Protective clothing and shoes 	<p>Better treatment regimens (shorter duration, higher efficacy).</p>
<p>Chromoblastomycosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cladophialophora carrionii C. bantiana Fonsecaea pedrosoi Fonsecaea compacta Phialophora verrucosa <p>Other Deep Mycoses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paracoccidioides spp. Sporothrix spp. 	<p>Itraconazole</p> <p>EML chromoblastomycosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, sporotrichosis: oral liquid, 10 mg per mL, oral solid 100 mg</p> <p>Amphotericin B</p> <p>EML sporotrichosis: 50 mg powder for injection (as</p>	<p>Case management [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No “gold standard” treatment; treatment options include antifungals (itraconazole), physical therapies, immune adjuvants and surgery for minor lesions Treatment of choice for paracoccidioidomycosis and sporotrichosis: itraconazole <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASH Protective clothing and shoes 	<p>Prospectively obtained effectiveness of itraconazole and other antifungals;</p> <p>Improved treatment regimens (shorter duration and increased efficacy)</p>

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
https://www.who.int/health-topics/mycetoma-chromoblastomycosis-and-other-deep-mycoses	deoxycholate or liposomal complex)		
Dengue and Chikungunya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Flavivirus Dengue virus · Alphavirus Chikungunya virus https://www.who.int/health-topics/dengue-and-severe-dengue https://www.who.int/health-topics/chikungunya	None	NA Selected complementary core interventions [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WASH · Vector control · Symptomatic treatment [1, 36, 37] 	Anti-viral drugs.
Echinococcosis [World Health Organization , 2019a] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> · <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> https://www.who.int/health-topics/echinococcosis	Albendazole EML: 400 mg tablet (chewable). Mebendazole EML: Solid: 100 mg tablet (chewable); 500 mg tablet (chewable)	Case management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Treatment with albendazole or mebendazole Albendazole (drug of choice) 10-15mg/kg/day, in two divided doses, with a fat rich meal to increase its bioavailability. Mebendazole may be used at 40-50mg/kg daily, in three divided doses if albendazole is not available or not tolerated. · Other options for cystic echinococcosis include percutaneous methods + albendazole prophylaxis with the PAIR (Puncture, Aspiration, Injection, Re-aspiration) technique, standard catheterization, or the modified catheterization technique, surgery (cyst removal +albendazole prophylaxis, and “watch and wait” · Other option for alveolar echinococcosis: curative surgery [1, 38, 39, 40] Selected complementary core interventions (WHO, 2020): ‘One Health’ approach In collaboration with veterinary and food safety authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WASH · Periodic deworming of dogs with praziquantel · Livestock vaccination · where feasible, anthelmintic baiting of foxes. [1, 39, 40, 41] 	Identification of optimal albendazole treatment courses (indicates that drugs with improved efficacy would add value).

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
<p>Foodborne trematodiasis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Clonorchis sinensis</i> · <i>Dicrocoelium dendriticum</i> · <i>D. hospes</i> · <i>Fasciola hepatica</i> · <i>F. gigantica</i> · <i>Fasciolopsis buski</i> · <i>Heterophyes heterophyes</i> · <i>Metagonimus yokogawai</i> · <i>Opisthorchis viverrine</i> · <i>O. felineus</i> · <i>Paragonimus westermani</i> · <i>P. kellicotti</i> <p>https://www.who.int/health-topics/foodborne-trematode-infections</p>	<p>Praziquantel EML: 250 mg and 600 mg tablet.</p> <p>Triclabendazole EML: 250 mg tablet.</p>	<p>Preventive chemotherapy [1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Small liver flukes and <i>Paragonimus spp.</i>: MDA with praziquantel · <i>Fasciola spp</i> and <i>Paragonimus spp</i>: MDA with triclabendazole <p>Case management (World Health Organization, 2007; 2008; 2011; 2020a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Praziquantel · Triclabendazole <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WASH · Veterinary public health: treatment of livestock and other domestic animals, · Management practices in fish farming · Snail control · Outbreak investigation and control [36] 	None
<p>Taeniasis and cysticercosis [World Health Organization , 2018b]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Taenia solium</i> <p>https://www.who.int/health-topics/taeniasis-and-cysticercosis</p>	<p>Albendazole EML: 400 mg tablet (chewable)</p> <p>Praziquantel EML: 600 mg and 150 mg tablet</p> <p>Niclosamide EML: 500 mg tablet (chewable)</p>	<p>Preventive Chemotherapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Endemic populations: Single dose praziquantel (10 mg/kg) or, if active surveillance and medical referral of neurological adverse events is in place, niclosamide (2 g, dose adjusted for children), or albendazole 400 mg/day for 3 consecutive days [1, 42]. · Endemic population in communities with school based preventive chemotherapy for soil-transmitted helminths and reporting system with active surveillance and medical referral of neurological adverse events: co-administration of single dose praziquantel (10 mg/kg) and single dose albendazole (400 mg) to school age children [42]. <p>Case management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Taeniasis: Single administration of praziquantel (10 mg/kg) or niclosamide (single dose, adults and children >6 years: 2 g, children 2-6 years 1g, children < 2 years 0.5 g, after light meal followed after 2 hours by laxative) [43] 	Efficacy of current treatment strategies

NTD, species (WHO Fact Sheet link)	Anti-infective drugs as per 2030 Roadmap [1]	Anti-infective drug-based core strategic interventions [1] Selected complementary core interventions [1]	Gaps in anti-infective drugs as per 2030 roadmap [1]
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurocysticercosis: long courses of praziquantel and/ or albendazole and supporting therapy with corticosteroids and/or antiepileptic medicines. Doses and duration depending on number, size, location and developmental stage of the cysts, surrounding inflammatory edema, acuteness and severity of signs or symptom. Usual doses 15 mg/ kg/day albendazole and 50 mg/kg/day praziquantel, divided in two to three daily doses; proposed length of treatment from one to two weeks for parenchymal and ≥ 1 month for subarachnoid lesions. [40, 43] <p>Selected complementary core interventions [1]: in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) [1, 43] • Prevention and control in pigs: improved pig farming, pig vaccination with TSOL18 and treatment with oxfendazole, meat inspection and processing, [43] 	

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EML: WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, 2021 [44], IM intramuscular, IV intravenous, PC: preventive chemotherapy, WASH: Clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

Table S3: Cure and egg reduction rates in Phase 2 studies evaluating moxidectin efficacy against *Strongyloides stercoralis*, *Trichuris trichiura* and concomitant helminths; and against *Schistosoma haematobium* and *S. mansoni*

Helminth	Treatment* (n analysed)	CR (%) (95% CI)	% GM ERR/LRR (95% CI)	Additional information
<i>S. stercoralis</i>	IVM 200 µg/kg (62)	95.1 (86.5- 99.0)		Laos Adolescents and adults Randomized, single blind, single dose
	Moxi 8 mg (63)	93.6 (84.5-98.2)		
Hookworm	IVM 200 µg/kg (34)	55.9 (52.1-84.7)	79.4 (61-88)	Baermann assay, Kato-Katz, 2 samples (blinded) 21-25 days post-Tx
	Moxi 8 mg (37)	56.7 (55.9-79.7)	74.6 (61-90)	
<i>Opistorchis. viverrini</i>	IVM 200 µg/kg (46)	6.5 (6.4-25.4)	0 (-40-2)	ISRCTN11983645 [2]
	Moxi 8 mg (56)	17.8 (11.2-32.2)	12.5 (-2-30)	
<i>T. trichiura</i>	Moxi 8mg + Alb 400mg (197)	50.8 (43.6–57.9)	98.5 (98.0–98.9)	Tanzania 12-18 years Randomized, single blind, single dose Kato-Katz, 2 samples, 2 smears each (blinded) 14-21 days post-Tx
	Alb 400mg + OxP 25 mg/kg (200)	83.0 (77.1–87.9)	99.8 (99.6–99.9)	
	Moxi 8mg + Tri [200mg <15 yrs, 400 mg ≥15 yrs] (119)	22.7 (15.5–31.3)	91.6 (88.2–93.9)	
	Moxi 8 mg (118)	14.4 (8.6–22.1)	83.2 (77.9–87.6)	
Hookworm	Moxi 8mg + Alb 400mg (95)	76.8 (66.2–85.4)	98.9 (98.0- 99.5)	ISRCTN20398469 [3]
	Alb 400mg + OxP 25 mg/kg (94)	75.9 (65.3–84.6)	98.6 (97.4- 99.3)	
	Moxi 8mg + Tri [200mg <15 yrs, 400 mg ≥15 yrs] (55)	88.2 (76.1–95.6)	99.4 (98.7- 99.8)	
	Moxi 8 mg (51)	34.0 (20.8–49.3)	86.8 (72.7–93.9)	
<i>A. lumbricoides</i>	Moxi 8mg + Alb 400mg (133)	96.6 (91.5–99.1)	>99.9 (99.98–99.99)	
	Alb 400mg + OxP 25 mg/kg (129)	96.6 (91.4–99.1)	>99.9 (99.97–99.99)	
	Moxi 8mg + Tri [200mg <15 yrs, 400 mg ≥15 yrs] (77)	97.1 (90.2–99.6)	>99.9 (99.9–100.0)	
	Moxi 8 mg (71)	98.4 (91.4–99.9)	>99.9 (99.9–100.0)	
<i>T. trichiura</i>	Placebo (40)	12.5	45.9	Tanzania

Helminth	Treatment* (n analysed)	CR (%) (95% CI)	% GM ERR/LRR (95% CI)	Additional information
		(4.2–26.8)	(11.3–67.0)	16-18 years
	Moxi 8 mg (41)	46.3 (30.7–62.6)	94.3 (87.8–97.5)	Randomized, single blind, single dose
	Moxi 16 mg (38)	50.0 (33.4–66.6)	95.0 (90.3–97.6)	Kato-Katz, 2 samples, 2 smears, 13-20 days post-Tx, Blinded
	Moxi 24 mg (41)	43.9 (28.5–60.3)	95.7 (91.8–97.8)	
	Moxi 8 mg + Alb 400 mg (40)	62.5 (45.8–77.3)	97.4 (94.2–99.0)	NCT03501251
	Moxi 16 mg + Alb 400 mg (42)	61.9 (45.6–76.4)	98.4 (96.7–99.3)	[4]
	Moxi 24 mg + Alb 400 mg (39)	69.2 (52.4–83.0)	98.6 (97.2–99.4)	
Hookworm	Placebo (12)	25	68.6	
	Moxi 8 mg (12)	50	88.2	
	Moxi 16 mg (11)	25	73.7	
	Moxi 24 mg (12)	33.3	81.3	
	Moxi 8 mg + Alb 400 mg (10)	81.8	99.7	
	Moxi 16 mg + Alb 400 mg (15)	80	93.8	
	Moxi 24 mg + Alb 400 mg (10)	90	99.6	
<i>A. lumbricoides</i>	Placebo (5)	20	89.3	
	Moxi 8 mg (4)	100	100	
	Moxi 16 mg (4)	75	100	
	Moxi 24 mg (6)	100	100	
	Moxi 8 mg + Alb 400 mg (7)	100	100	
	Moxi 16 mg + Alb 400 mg (4)	75	100	
	Moxi 24 mg + Alb 400 mg (7)	100	100	
<i>S. stercoralis</i>	Placebo (29)	14 (4–32)	27.0 (–2.2 to 48.3)	Laos Adults
	Moxi 2 mg (30)	73 (54–88)	98.4 (93.7–99.9)	Randomized, single blind, single dose
	Moxi 4 mg (29)	90 (73–98)	99.4 (98.1–100.0)	Baermann assay, Kato-Katz, 2 samples, 2 smears
	Moxi 6 mg (32)	84 (67–95)	99.8 (99.3–100.0)	28 days post-Tx
	Moxi 8 mg (29)	83 (64–94)	97.8 (93.2–99.9)	NCT04056325
	Moxi 10 mg (30)	97	98.5	[5]

Helminth	Treatment* (n analysed)	CR (%) (95% CI)	% GM ERR/LRR (95% CI)	Additional information
		(83–100)	(95.0–100.0)	
	Moxi 12 mg (30)	87 (69–96)	98.6 (95.7–99.9)	
Hookworm	Placebo (17)	0		
	Moxi 2 mg (17)	0		
	Moxi 4 mg (18)	11		
	Moxi 6 mg (21)	14		
	Moxi 8 mg (17)	0		
	Moxi 10 mg (20)	10		
	Moxi 12 mg (21)	29		
<i>O. viverrini</i>	Placebo (17)	14		
	Moxi 2 mg (17)	12		
	Moxi 4 mg (18)	0		
	Moxi 6 mg (21)	4		
	Moxi 8 mg (17)	-5		
	Moxi 10 mg (20)	-5		
	Moxi 12 mg (21)	14		
<i>S. mansoni</i>	Moxi 8 mg (31)	12.9 (0.03–0.3)	70.9 (0.4–0.9)	Côte d'Ivoire 12-18 years
	Syn 3 daily doses + PZQ 40 mg/kg (26)	27.0 (0.1–0.5)	77.6 (0.5–1.1)	Randomized, single blind
	Syn 3 daily doses (30)	6.7 (0.01–0.2)	64.9 (0.4–0.8)	Kato-Katz, 2 samples, 2 smears, 21 days post-Tx
	PZQ 40 mg/kg (29)	27.6 (0.1–0.5)	87.5 (0.8–1)	
<i>S. hematobium</i>	Moxi 8 mg (27)	14.8 (0.04–0.3)	8.7 (-0.4–0.6)	3 urine samples, urine filtration
	Syn 3 daily doses + PZQ 40 mg/kg (30)	60 (0.4–0.8)	96 (0.8–1.0)	ISRCTN 63657086
	Syn 3 daily doses (27)	11.1 (0.02–0.3)	0 (-0.8–0.6)	[6]
	PZQ 40 mg/kg (26)	38.5 (0.2–0.6)	93.5 (0.8–1.0)	

* single dose unless otherwise specified.

Alb albendazole, CR cure rate, GM ERR geometric mean-based egg reduction rate, IVM ivermectin, LRR larval reduction rate, Moxi moxidectin, OxP oxantel pamoate, PZQ praziquantel, Syn synriam (150 mg arterolane + 750 mg piperazine), Tri tribendimidine, Tx treatment

1 Anti-infective drugs for diseases for which preventive chemotherapy is the main strategic core intervention strategy

The strategic core intervention for many NTDs is or includes preventive chemotherapy (PC), i.e., drug administration to specified (eligible, at risk) populations without individual diagnosis. These include NTDs targeted for eradication (yaws), for elimination (i.e., interruption of transmission, onchocerciasis, leprosy), for elimination as a public health

problem (LF, schistosomiasis, STH, trachoma) and for control (food-borne trematodiasis, scabies, taeniasis and cysticercosis) by or beyond 2030 (Table S2) [7].

Many drugs were originally developed for veterinary use. Prior registration for veterinary use accelerates and, to some extent, reduces costs and risk for development for human use because of significant overlap between regulatory requirements for veterinary and human drugs for non-clinical studies to characterize the drug toxicity profile (dose-response relationship, affected organs, reversibility of effects [8]). Continued large scale use of the same drug for animal and human health and development of resistance is one of the aspects that require 'One Health' approaches [7, 9]. Monitoring drug susceptibility, including variability of response, is a challenge for PC programmes given the lack of suitable diagnostics for this and other purposes. The WHO NTD department has formed a Diagnostics Technical Advisory Committee. WHO makes the target product profiles and preferred product characteristics emerging from this committee as well as others available within its 'Global Observatory on Health Research and Development' (<https://www.who.int/observatories/global-observatory-on-health-research-and-development>, <https://www.who.int/observatories/global-observatory-on-health-research-and-development/analyses-and-syntheses/target-product-profile/who-target-product-profiles>) [7, 10].

1.1 Ivermectin

Ivermectin, a macrocyclic lactone discovered in 1975 [11], is a semisynthetic anthelmintic derived from avermectin, a fermentation product of *Streptomyces avermitilis*. Macrocyclic lactones have activity against a broad spectrum of endo- and ecto-parasites. They are agonists of the glutamate-gated chloride channel, present in the neurons and pharyngeal muscles of nematodes and arthropods, but not of humans. Activation of the channel inhibits movement and pharyngeal pumping, leading to paralysis [12, 13, 14]. The role of the human immune system in the efficacy of ivermectin against filarial nematodes is still under investigation [15, 16, 17, 18]. Consideration for development for onchocerciasis started in 1978 [19, 20] before introduction into the veterinary market in 1981 [21, 22].

In heavily *Loa loa* infected individuals, ivermectin treatment can result in severe and potentially fatal adverse reactions [23, 24, 25]. This prohibits ivermectin use in loiasis endemic areas that are not onchocerciasis meso- and hyperendemic due to the overall risk-benefit for the population [26]. Until the advent of drugs safe in *Loa loa* co-infected individuals, alternative treatment strategies are needed [27].

Concern has been raised about *O. volvulus* 'suboptimal response' or potentially emerging resistance to ivermectin's embryostatic effect (i.e., time to resumption of microfilariae production and release by the macrofilariae) in some regions after long term use of ivermectin [23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33]. However, genome-wide association analyses suggest that *O. volvulus* response to ivermectin is a polygenically determined quantitative trait with different identical or related molecular pathways determining the extent of ivermectin response in different *O. volvulus* populations [34]. Furthermore, 'suboptimal response' to ivermectin was observed in some *O. volvulus* infected individuals in areas without ivermectin treatment history [35, 36]. This highlights the need to include variability of response in monitoring of drug response and interpretation of the results.

1.2 Albendazole, mebendazole and triclabendazole

Albendazole, mebendazole, and triclabendazole belong to the class of benzimidazoles. The class was originally developed as plant fungicides and later as veterinary anthelmintics [37]. Benzimidazole exposure results in inhibition of beta tubulin polymerase causing disruption of cytoplasmic microtubule formation [12, 38]. This leads to the killing of adult stages of gut-

dwelling helminths, as well as sterilization or killing of the eggs and larvae [37].

Albendazole is a broad-spectrum anthelmintic, first approved for use in humans in 1982. In its current formulation for human use it is poorly absorbed [38]. **Mebendazole** is also a broad-spectrum anthelmintic. Its mode of action involves multiple targets including glucose uptake in nematodes and cestodes in addition to inhibition of tubulin polymerization [39].

Triclabendazole is a narrow-spectrum anthelmintic originally developed for animal fasciolosis. Its mode of action is not completely understood. Triclabendazole and its metabolites are thought to cross the tegument of the immature and adult worms, resulting in resting membrane potential alternation, interference with microtubule structure and function, inhibition of protein synthesis and ultimately death [40, 41]. Development for human fascioliasis, one of the most widespread foodborne trematode infections, was initiated in the 1990ies by WHO in collaboration with Chemische Industrie Basel (CIBA) after a fascioliasis epidemic in Iran in 1989. Regulatory approval for this indication was obtained in Egypt in 1997 and in France in 2002 [41]. Triclabendazole was approved for treatment of fascioliasis in patients 6 years or older by the US FDA in 2019 [40]. Triclabendazole is currently the only drug available able to kill early immature and adult *Fasciola hepatica* [41]. Triclabendazole is under consideration for repurposing for drug-resistant bacterial infections [42].

1.3 Diethylcarbamazine

Diethylcarbamazine (DEC), discovered in 1947, is a piperazine derivative anthelmintic evaluated for its efficacy and safety for onchocerciasis beginning in the 1950ies [43]. *In vitro* experiments at therapeutic concentrations demonstrated the loss of the microfilarial sheath with subsequent damage of organelles and apoptosis of the filarial nematode *Wuchereria bancrofti* [44], the cause of 90% of lymphatic filariasis cases globally [45]. The Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis advocated for two elimination strategies in areas not co-endemic for either loiasis or onchocerciasis: annual mass drug administration (MDA) of a single dose of DEC or DEC with albendazole, estimated to require 4-6 years, or substitution of table/cooking salt by DEC-fortified salt (0.2-0.4% w/w) estimated to require 6-12 months [Ottesen et al. 1997]. By 2020, MDA had been implemented in at least one endemic area in 69/72 endemic countries and 17/72 countries had met the criteria for elimination of LF as a public health problem [46]. The data from studies and pilot/small scale use of DEC-fortified salt were encouraging [47, 48]. However, implementation for large scale LF control may have been limited [49] to four countries: Taiwan [48], China, where elimination of LF as a public health problem has been partly attributed to the use of DEC-fortified salt [50], Haiti [51], and some areas in India [52, 53, 54].

1.4 Praziquantel

Praziquantel is a chiral pyrazine-isoquinoline derivative discovered in 1972 and first developed for veterinary use. It has a broad spectrum of activity against trematodes and cestodes [55]. The anti-helminthic action is not fully understood and may include binding to calcium channels, tegument disruption, binding and polymerization of actin and exposure of surface membrane antigens [56, 57, 58]. As for other NTDs, the extent to which long-term preventive chemotherapy affects parasite drug susceptibility is unknown [59].

The WHO recommended single dose of 40 mg/kg praziquantel (Table S2) achieves 95%, 94.1% and 86.3% ERR in *Schistosoma japonicum*, *S. haematobium* and *S. mansoni*, respectively [57]. A dose of 60mg/kg did not increase efficacy against *S. mansoni* or *S. japonicum* [60, 61, 62]. Known limitations of praziquantel are its inactivity against immature parasites [57].

Praziquantel is well tolerated, but in individuals with cysticercosis and cysts in the central nervous system or eyes, the inflammatory reaction to dying *Taenia solium* can result in seizures, and/or cerebral infarction and permanent eye lesion [57].

The commercially available tablets include both (R)-praziquantel (L) with anthelmintic activity and the inactive (S)-praziquantel (D) which contributes to the bitter taste and a 600 mg tablet size that is unsuitable for pre-school children [63]. The Paediatric Praziquantel Consortium (<https://www.pediatricpraziquantelconsortium.org/>) has developed a paediatric formulation [64, 65].

1.5 Azithromycin

Azithromycin is a macrolide antibiotic with a 15-member lactone ring structure with two sugars attached via a glycosidic bond that is semi-synthetically produced from erythromycin A. It is the single compound in its azalide subclass. Azithromycin binds to the 50S ribosomal subunit at the peptidyl transferase centre, preventing protein synthesis [66, 67]. Besides broad-spectrum activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, azithromycin has activity against the apicomplexan parasites *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Malaria* spp. [67, 68, 69, 70]. Azithromycin can be taken orally and has a safety profile [71, 72] which supports inclusion of pregnant women and children in MDA [7]. The absence of drug-drug interactions, allows integrating azithromycin, ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine and albendazole MDA [71].

Since studies in Papua New Guinea and Ghana [73, 74] showed non-inferiority to penicillin G, azithromycin is the preferred antibiotic for treating yaws [74, 75, 76]. A single 20 mg/kg dose is highly effective in treating trachoma infections [77, 78]. Yaws and trachoma can be co-endemic and research has shown that 20 mg/kg is as effective as 30 mg/kg against Yaws [79].

1.6 Benzathine penicillin

Benzathine penicillin (penicillin G) was discovered in 1951 [80]. It is a bactericidal beta-lactam that inhibits bacterial peptidoglycan transpeptidases, preventing cell wall formation during cell division [81]. While oral formulations are available, benzathine penicillin is frequently administered intravenously or intramuscularly due to its poor oral bioavailability. Slow-release formulations provide effective serum levels measurable for at least 14 days. Benzathine penicillin has a broad spectrum of activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, including the causative agents of yaws and trachoma [75, 80]. Despite the need for trained health professionals and discomfort of injections for the patient, benzathine penicillin mass treatment of cases and contacts was implemented in 46 countries from 1952-1964 and reduced global yaws and other treponematoses burden by 95% [75]. Care must be taken to ensure individuals with known penicillin sensitivity or history of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, are excluded and immediate access to required interventions is available to avoid fatalities [64, 65].

1.7 Topical scabicides

1.7.1 Permethrin

Permethrin is a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide, based on pyrethrum extracts, designed to increase insecticidal activity, lower mammalian toxicity and provide the photostability required for agricultural use. Permethrin acts on the nerve cell membrane of arthropods to disrupt the sodium channel current that regulates the polarization of the membrane. This results in delayed repolarization and subsequent paralysis and death of the parasites. Permethrin is an active ingredient of mosquito nets [82, 83, 84, 85, 86].

Permethrin is available in topical products for human use. The WHO EML 2021 lists a 1% lotion and a 5% cream [1]. A permethrin cream (5%) was approved for the treatment of scabies in children two months of age or older by the US FDA in 1989 [87]. Safety in younger infants is an open question [88, 89] The absorption of permethrin through the skin is limited to 2% of the amount applied with the fraction absorbed being eliminated via rapid metabolism [87, 88].

Five percent (5%) permethrin cream applied head-to-toe including in intimate areas is highly effective for treatment of scabies cases and reducing the risk of infection of contacts [90]. However, large scale use in endemic community settings faces a number challenges ranging from cost to individual acceptance and compliance with the treatment regimen [91, 92, 93, 94]. This limits its utility and drives considerations for use only in individuals for which ivermectin is contra-indicated [91, 95, 96].

1.7.2 Benzyl benzoate

Benzyl benzoate is an ester of benzoic acid and benzyl alcohol which is neurotoxic to mites [97]. *In vitro*, 100% of mites were killed after 3 hours of exposure to 25% benzyl benzoate [98]. The drug has been used for scabies since the late 1930ies [99] and is available as 10-25% lotions or emulsions [100, 101]. Characterized as safe in children ≥ 1 month [102], a 5% topical cream was identified as the treatment of choice for infants >2 months for whom safe and effective ivermectin doses have not been identified and as an option for infants younger than 2 months with application for four hours [96]. Severe skin irritation can occur within minutes of application [101]. An informal consultation on a framework for scabies control was held by WHO in 2019 to review current data and gather expert views. The experts recommended that, in view of the inferior efficacy and higher rate of adverse effects of benzyl benzoate compared to permethrin, benzyl benzoate should only be used when topical treatment is indicated (i.e. for individuals for which ivermectin is not approved) and permethrin is unavailable [91, 95, 96].

1.7.3 Malathion

Malathion is an organophosphate insecticide. Its toxic metabolite malaoxon irreversibly inhibits acetylcholinesterase, resulting in acetylcholine accumulation and disruption of the nervous system function [103, 104, 105].

Malathion, as an aqueous lotion 0.5% w/v, was first developed for human use in the treatment of headlice. The justification for the use of malathion in scabies comes from a study conducted in 1978 that demonstrated an 83% cure rate in a population of 30 individuals with scabies [106]. A 2013 review did not identify sufficient evidence to assess the relative efficacy of malathion and other scabies treatment options [107]. Malathion is listed as an alternative rather than a recommended treatment of scabies in the European recommendations [108]. In 2015 malathion was classified as probably carcinogenic to humans by the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer [105, 109].

1.7.4 Sulphur ointment

Sulphur is the oldest antiscabietic, reported to have been used already around 25 AD. The reduction of sulphur to hydrogen sulphide by bacteria on the skin results in killing the scabies mite [97]. Topical sulphur treatments for scabies contain between 2-33% sulphur. They were used in the youngest children (at strengths of $<10\%$ sulphur), including those under 2 months as well as pregnant women due to a perceived safety profile resulting from the lack of absorption following dermal application [97]. It was recently used during MDA for a scabies outbreak in Ethiopia for treatment of children under 10 years of age and pregnant and breast-feeding women [110].

The efficacy of sulphur is inferior to that of permethrin and ivermectin [97]. Sulphur is listed as an alternative rather than a recommended treatment of scabies in the European recommendations [108]. Its use can be limited by its strong and unpleasant odour that results from the formation of hydrogen sulphide as well as the fact that it can stain clothing [111].

2 Anti-infective drugs for diseases for which case management is the main control- and elimination strategy

2.1 Antibiotics

2.1.1 Rifampicin

Rifampicin, derived from *Nocardia mediterranei*, was discovered in 1957 and synthesized in 1965. Activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was determined *in vitro* and *in vivo* in mice, guinea pigs, and rabbits before trials in humans, initiated in 1966, demonstrated efficacy against *M. tuberculosis* strains resistant against all other anti-tuberculosis drugs at the time [112]. Rifampicin inhibits bacterial DNA-dependent RNA synthesis, thus preventing transcription and inhibiting bacterial protein synthesis, resulting in a bactericidal effect. Differences in antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria are not related to different binding sites on the RNA polymerase but to other factors like efflux pumps. Different mechanisms of resistance have been described, including changes of the binding pocket of rifampicin on the RNA polymerases [113]. Rifampicin activates the nuclear pregnane X receptor increasing the expression of genes whose products are involved in drug metabolism and transport, inducing cytochrome P450 2B6 (CYP2B6), CYP 3A4 and P-glycoprotein. The resulting potential for drug-drug interaction needs to be considered in particular in treatment of TB and HIV co-infected patients [114].

A systematic review concluded that a single rifampicin dose reduced leprosy incidence in contacts of patients in the first two years by 57% [115]. Rifampicin-associated adverse effects include flu-like syndrome, gastrointestinal and dermatological events, as well as hepatitis and cholestasis [112].

2.1.2 Dapsone

Dapsone, discovered in 1908, is a sulphone bacteriostatic antibiotic and anti-inflammatory agent. Its bacteriostatic effect is due to its sulphonamide-like ability to compete with para-aminobenzoic acid for the active site of dihydropteroate synthetase, thus inhibiting dihydrofolic acid synthesis. The anti-inflammatory effect may be based on different mechanisms including inhibition of chemokine production, neutrophil response to chemotactic signals and adherence to endothelium, generation of toxic and oxygen-derived radicals. Dapsone is metabolized by cytochrome P450, making it susceptible to drug-drug interactions. The resulting hydroxylamines are considered responsible for the dose-dependent adverse effects agranulocytosis, methemoglobinemia and haemolysis. The most important other dose-dependent adverse effects occurring at low frequency within the dose range considered effective for leprosy is peripheral neuropathy. Life-threatening dapsone hypersensitivity syndrome occurs in 0.5% to 3.6% of patients [116]. This syndrome has been linked to *HLA-B*13-1* polymorphism which could provide a path to pre-treatment screening [117, 118, 119].

Dapsone resistance of *Mycobacterium leprae* has been known since 1977 [120, 121] and has been attributed to a mutation of folP1, a gene coding for dihydropteroate synthase [122].

2.1.3 Clofazimine

Clofazimine, first described in 1957, is a riminophenazine antibiotic. It is active against slowly and rapidly growing mycobacteria, as well as many other Gram-positive bacteria *in vitro* but not against Gram-negative bacteria. The primary site of action has been proposed to

be the outer membrane. Putative targets include ion transporters and the bacterial respiratory chain. Besides anti-infective activity, clofazimine also has anti-inflammatory properties benefitting the treatment of leprosy. Its high lipophilicity enables clofazimine to accumulate in skin and nerves which contributes to its efficacy against erythema nodosum leprosum. Adverse effects of clofazimine include reversible discolouration of the skin and conjunctiva and gastrointestinal events which are usually mild to moderate but may in some cases be severe including bleeding, splenic infarction, and bowel obstruction [123, 124]. The primary mechanism of resistance was described to be a mutation in the *rv0678* gene, a gene that encodes a transcriptional repressor for the efflux pump MmpL5 [125].

2.1.4 Clarithromycin

Clarithromycin is a macrolide antibiotic which differs from erythromycin through substitution of the hydroxy group at the lactone ring by an O-methyl group. This confers greater acid stability resulting in better oral availability and may contribute to improved intracellular activity. Clarithromycin is metabolized by hepatic cytochrome P450 enzymes. Its metabolite 14-hydroxy-clarithromycin has activity with additive or synergistic activity with clarithromycin. Macrolides inhibit protein synthesis by reversible binding to the 50S ribosomal subunit of susceptible bacteria [126] and have immunomodulatory effects [127]. The potential for drug-drug interactions is based on binding and inhibition of macrolides to cytochrome CYP3A4 isoforms. Clarithromycin has less affinity to CYP3A4 than erythromycin [128, 129]

2.1.5 Moxifloxacin

Moxifloxacin is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic, approved for human use by the US FDA in 1999 (https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/99/21-085_Avelox.cfm). Compared to fluoroquinolones available at that time it has enhanced activity against Gram-positive and atypical bacteria with a comparable spectrum of activity against Gram-negative bacteria. Fluoroquinolones inhibit DNA replication by affecting DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV with topoisomerase IV being the primary target in Gram-positive bacteria and DNA gyrase that in Gram-negative bacteria. Data obtained in *S. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* suggest moxifloxacin may have equal and simultaneous activity on both enzymes. Fluoroquinolone resistance is based on alteration of the genes coding for the target enzymes and the gene coding for the efflux pump [130].

2.1.6 Tetracycline

Tetracycline is an antibiotic that was discovered in 1953. The term has also been used to describe the structurally related family of antibiotics, which inhibit the bacterial protein biosynthesis by preventing the attachment of the aminoacyl-tRNA to the ribosomal acceptor site. They are broad-spectrum antibiotics, exhibiting activity against a wide range of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, as well as atypical pathogens like *Chlamydia* [131]. Before the mid-1950s, pathogens resistant to tetracyclines were rare, but since then, many different tetracycline-resistant genes have been characterized. [131].

2.2 Anti-trypanosomal drugs

2.2.1 Fexinidazole

Fexinidazole is 2-substituted 5-nitroimidazole synthesized in the 1970s by Hoechst AG (now Sanofi). Its anti-trypanosomal activity was initially identified in the 1980s and later confirmed [132, 133]. Fexinidazole is metabolized rapidly to sulfoxide and sulfone derivatives [132, 134]. The subsequent metabolism and mechanism of action in trypanosomes are unknown [135].

In 2005, DNDi initiated development for human African trypanosomiasis (HAT). After completion of preclinical studies and an agreement between DNDi and Sanofi for joint development, fexinidazole entered clinical trials in 2009 and obtained an EMA positive ‘scientific opinion’ in 2018 through the Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 procedure in the context of cooperation with WHO (now referred to as EU-M4all) for treatment of first and second stage *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* HAT in adults and children ≥ 6 years and weighing ≥ 20 kg. Through the EU-M4all procedure, the EMA assesses drugs not intended for marketing in the European Union according to the same criteria used for drugs for the European market. The EMA scientific opinion facilitated regulatory approval in *T. b. gambiense* endemic countries [135, 136, 137]. In 2019 fexinidazole was added to the WHO EML and included in the ‘WHO interim guidelines for the treatment of gambiense human African trypanosomiasis’ [138]. In 2020, fexinidazole received US FDA approval [139]. In contrast to all other available treatments for *T.b. gambiense* HAT, fexinidazole is an oral treatment.

A Phase 2/3 study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of fexinidazole for first and second stage *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/record/NCT03974178>) is expected to be completed in mid 2022. The trial is co-funded by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and the Portuguese Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (<https://dndi.org/research-development/portfolio/fexinidazole-tb-rhodesiense/>, accessed March 3 2022).

2.2.2 Pentamidine

Pentamidine, a synthetic aromatic diamidine, was introduced in 1940 [140]. The exact target and mode of action is unknown, but may include DNA binding/damage, loss of kinetoplast DNA, and disruption of mitochondrial membrane potential [141, 142]. Loss of kinetoplast DNA has been suggested to precede the loss of mitochondrial membrane potential, but it is unclear if this effect is strictly sequential or if pentamidine also has direct effects on the mitochondrial membrane [141]. Despite 80 years of use, it is still highly effective (cure rate = 93-98%) in treating first-stage *T. b. gambiense* HAT [140, 143], but today is the 1st line treatment only for children < 6 years or < 20 kg for whom fexinidazole is not yet registered. Pentamidine is administered once daily intramuscularly for 7-10 days [140]. If given intravenously, care must be taken that it is not given as a bolus, but rather slowly over 60 minutes to avoid a possible induction of hypoglycemia. An oral analogue of pentamidine had comparable efficacy to the injected form, but was too toxic [144]. As there is little economic incentive in pentamidine, its production was almost discontinued, but in 2001, Sanofi-Aventis agreed to continue producing it for the WHO [143]. It cannot pass the blood-brain barrier and therefore is not effective for second-stage infections [140].

2.2.3 Suramin

Suramin is a polysulfonated naphthyl urea introduced to treat *T. b. gambiense* and *T. brucei rhodesiense* HAT in 1922 and is one of the first anti-infective agents developed from trypan blue and trypan red in one of the first medicinal chemistry programs at Bayer [140, 145]. Due to its six negative charges at physiological pH, it does not pass the blood brain barrier and, therefore, was only effective against first-stage trypanosomiasis disease [145]. Suramin is a multifunctional compound with activity against other parasitic diseases, viruses, cancers, and snakebites, and even autism [145]. Due to the many targets, the mode of action of suramin is not well understood in general and even less-so in trypanosomes [145]. In trypanosomes it has been shown to inhibit cytokinesis as demonstrated by cells with two nuclei [141]. Suramin has been shown to inhibit glycolytic enzymes and inhibit oxidative phosphorylation, although it is not understood how the large and highly negatively charged

molecule can pass the membranes of the glycosomes and mitochondria where the enzymes are located [145]. Life threatening reactions to the 7-day course for *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT and lethal outcomes are rare. Pyrexia and usually mild and reversible nephrotoxicity are driven by concentrations in the kidneys [140]. As *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT progresses quickly to the second stage, treatment of pregnant women with first-stage HAT cannot be delayed until after birth of the child [140].

Suramin administered for 6 weeks is macrofilaricidal in *O. volvulus*, but the adverse reactions make it unsuitable for large scale use [146, 147]. Recent research shows activity against *Leishmania major* and *L. donovani*, and that suramin can block host cell invasion by *Plasmodium falciparum* [145]. Suramin is unstable in air and must be administered for HAT by slow intravenous injection every 3-7 days for 4 weeks [140, 144].

2.2.4 Melarsoprol

Melarsoprol is a trivalent organic arsenical compound that, since 1949, was the first-line drug of choice over other arsenic derivatives to treat second-stage *T.b. gambiense* and *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT [140, 143, 144]. The mode of action of melarsoprol is still being elucidated. It forms adducts with trypanothione and is an indiscriminate inhibitor of kinases (mainly dithiol containing trypanosomal enzymes); the latter indicating involvement of signaling cascades [140, 141]. Treatment of trypanosomes results in a defect in mitosis shown by an increased number of cells with replicated but unsegregated nuclear genomes [141]. The compound is liposoluble and administered intravenously in propylene glycol, an irritant. This makes melarsoprol not only difficult to administer, requiring hospitalization, but painful to the patients [143]. For several decades, melarsoprol treatment followed the regimens of other arsenicals and varied from country to country, including serial drug application with 1-week intervals without drug [140, 148]. Pharmacokinetic studies supported the hypothesis that a shorter, uninterrupted treatment regimen could be equally effective [149, 150]. This informed studies which showed the safety and efficacy of a 10-day treatment for second stage *T. b. gambiense* HAT [149, 150, 151] and *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT [148]. The most feared adverse reaction is reactive encephalopathy that can occur in up to 10% of patients with a median fatality rate of 50% [140, 143]. Melarsoprol is still the only drug available to treat second-stage *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT [140] but is today only a rescue treatment for *T. b. gambiense* HAT patients who have failed treatment with Nifurtimox-Eflornithine Combination Treatment (NECT) and fexinidazole [138]. There are few data on the safety of melarsoprol during pregnancy, but theoretically it is contraindicated. However, due to the severity of *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT, its use as treatment cannot be delayed until after the birth of the child [140].

2.2.5 Eflornithine

Eflornithine (D,L- α -difluoromethyl ornithine) was at one time evaluated as a cancer drug. Its antitrypanosomal effect was discovered in 1980 through WHO/TDR funded studies on the polyamine metabolism of trypanosomes [152]. Eflornithine irreversibly inhibits ornithine decarboxylase of trypanosomes [143], blocking production of the polyamine putrescine and subsequent DNA synthesis. This results in the parasites entering a dormant state susceptible to the host immune system [140]. Trypanosomes are more sensitive to the drug than mammalian cells, probably due to a slower ornithine decarboxylase turnover rate [144].

Eflornithine's effect on patients with second stage *T. b. gambiense* HAT [153] earned it the name 'resurrection drug'. Despite that, and the fact that public funding provided by WHO/TDR contributed to eflornithine development [153, 154], eflornithine was no longer available after the manufacturer Marion Merrell Dow merged with Hoechst and Roussel. WHO was not able to identify an alternative manufacturer for an affordable price [152, 155].

It took the discovery that eflornithine was being manufactured for a cream to remove unwanted facial hair in women, which had received regulatory approval in 2000 [156], and subsequent intense advocacy by Médecins Sans Frontières and WHO for eflornithine to become available again to save the lives of patients with HAT [152, 157, 158]. Currently, supply until 2025 has been secured through renewal of the WHO and Sanofi agreement [159]. Eflornithine is not used to treat second-stage *T. b. rhodesiense* HAT as these parasites are less susceptible to the compound [143]. Although an oral formulation was available, it did not ensure high enough levels in the cerebral spinal fluid, and eflornithine is therefore given intravenously [140]. As monotherapy, it requires administration 4 times a day every six hours for 14 days [144], which is difficult in the health centers in the remote rural areas where HAT is endemic. Through combination with 10 days of oral nifurtimox treatment every 8 hours (NECT), eflornithine infusion can be reduced to twice daily for 7-days [160, 161]. Little information is available on the safety of eflornithine during pregnancy and, when possible, watchful waiting (regular monthly clinical assessment) is used. If the health of the mother is at risk, eflornithine or NECT is given, otherwise pentamidine is used after the first trimester to prevent infection of the fetus [138, 140].

2.2.6 Benznidazole

Benznidazole is a nitroimidazole antiparasitic drug for treatment of acute and early chronic Chagas disease [7]. It is reduced to reactive metabolites by nitroreductases, but the mechanism of its action is not well understood [162, 163, 164]. Despite availability since 1971, its role in the treatment of chronic disease remains under discussion [165, 166]. Its better tolerance in infants and children than adults has been attributed to a faster hepatic elimination compared to adults [167]. A paediatric formulation was developed and registered in Brazil in 2011, in the US in 2017 (for ages 2-12 years https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2017/209570Orig1s000TOC.cfm, accessed 20 June 2022), and in Argentina in 2018 [168]. A recent study concluded that shorter treatment durations and/or lower doses of benznidazole could have similar antiparasitic effects with better tolerability than the current standard treatment, a promising finding to be confirmed via further studies [169, 170].

2.2.7 Nifurtimox

Nifurtimox is a 5-nitrofuran derivative, introduced for treatment of Chagas disease in the late 1960ies [171]. Following demonstration of the efficacy and safety of NECT, the combination of oral nifurtimox with intravenous eflornithine, for treatment of second stage *T. b. gambiense* HAT [160, 161], this combination was added to the WHO EML in 2009 [172] and became the treatment of choice for this indication [158, 173]. Nifurtimox was added to the WHO EML for children for African trypanosomiasis in 2013 [174] after data became available demonstrating that in children NECT efficacy is comparable and safety comparable or better in children than adults [173, 175, 176, 177]. The mechanism of action for both *T. brucei* and *T. cruzi* involves reduction by an NADH-dependent bacterial-like nitroreductase and generation of a cytotoxic, unsaturated open-chain nitrile derivative [133].

2.3 Antileishmanial drugs

2.3.1 Pentavalent antimoniate

The first use of a pentavalent antimonial (urea stibamine) for leishmaniasis dates back to 1922 [178]. Pentavalent antimony (Sb(V)) complexes currently in use include N-methyl-D-glucamine (meglumine antimoniate, Glucantime[®], 100 mg Sb/mL) and sodium gluconate (sodium stibogluconate, Pentostam[®], 85 mg Sb⁺/mL) [179, 180]. Pentavalent antimonials may be prodrugs converted to the active trivalent antimony, act directly, and/or via

stimulation of the immune system [Frezard et al. 2009] [Halder et al. 2011]. As for other antileishmanial drugs, efficacy and role of pentavalent antimonates in case management depends on clinical form, pathology, causative species, geographic region, use history, and co-infections [178, 181, 182, 183].

2.3.2 Amphotericin B and liposomal amphotericin B

Amphotericin B is a polyene antibiotic with efficacy against fungal infections as well as *T. cruzi*, *Schistosoma mansoni*, *Echinococcus multilocularis* and *Leishmania spp* [184]. The long-established notion that Amphotericin B mechanism of action is via cell membrane pore formation after binding to ergosterol has been questioned in favour of pleiotropic effects including induction of oxidative damage and an immunomodulatory effect [184]. It is available in several formulations: deoxycholate solution, colloidal dispersion with cholesterol sulphate, a lipid complex with two phospholipids, and in unilamellar liposomes formed from cholesterol and other phospholipids [178, 184, 185].

Liposomal amphotericin B was originally developed for severe systemic and deep mycoses. It was first used to treat a European with mediterranean visceral leishmaniasis who had failed treatment with antimonials, pentamidine and paromomycin [186, 187]. This and subsequent experience motivated a clinical development programme to obtain the data needed for registration of liposomal amphotericin B for treatment of visceral leishmaniasis in collaboration between the company and WHO/TDR [186]. Liposomal amphotericin B (Ambisome) was approved by the US FDA in 1997 for three indications including visceral leishmaniasis

(https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/97/050740_ambisome_toc.cfm). A single dose of liposomal amphotericin B has been shown to be efficacious as well as safe and effective for visceral leishmaniasis in India and Bangladesh [188, 189, 190] and has become the preferred first-line treatment, replacing miltefosine [191]. Further studies are needed to define the optimum treatment liposomal amphotericin B regimen for other clinical presentations, pathology, causative species, geographic region, use history and co-infections. [192].

2.3.3 Miltefosine

Miltefosine (hexadecylphosphocholine) is an alkyl phosphocholine compound and a structural analogue of lecithin [193]. It was evaluated from the 1980ies as a cancer drug resulting in registration of a topical formulation for treatment of skin lesion from breast cancer [194, 195]. Research into miltefosine's antileishmanial effect also dates back to the 1980ies [196].

Mechanisms involved in its antileishmanial action include incorporation into membrane lipid bilayers, disturbance of membrane metabolism and induction of apoptosis-like cell death as well as host-mediated immunomodulation [193].

Dose limiting gastrointestinal adverse reactions during long treatment resulted in discontinuation of development of oral formulations for cancer. The pre-clinical as well as clinical data obtained during that development [194] provided a valuable basis for development of miltefosine as the first oral treatment for visceral leishmaniasis [197].

Miltefosine is teratogenic in rats, but not rabbits. Contraindication during pregnancy is one of its main limitations [194, 198]. The availability of an oral treatment was one of the factors that lead to a regional strategic framework for elimination of visceral leishmaniasis from the Indian Subcontinent [199, 200].

Miltefosine development for treatment of visceral leishmaniasis was accomplished in collaboration between Asta Medica (Zentaris, Germany) and WHO/TDR with WHO/TDR providing both relevant expertise as well as funding. The collaboration was based on a

Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 1995 between WHO and the company which included provisions for availability and affordability of miltefosine for the public health systems in endemic countries, should development be successful and result in registration [195, 201]. Registration was achieved initially in Germany and in India in 2002 and later in other endemic countries. However, affordable access was only temporary. In contrast, the incentives provided by the US congress for investment into the development of drugs for neglected diseases via the ‘Priority Review Voucher’ (<https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder/tropical-disease-priority-review-voucher-program>) resulted in a company (Knight Therapeutics) who had never invested in miltefosine development, nor committed to making miltefosine available at affordable prices, benefitting from these incentives to the tune of US\$125 Million [195, 202]. This has resulted in calls to change the conditions under which a ‘Priority Review Voucher’ is awarded [202, 203].

2.3.4 Paromomycin

Paromomycin, a highly hydrophilic and lipid insoluble aminoglycoside also known as aminosidine, is a broad-spectrum antibiotic. Its antileishmanial effect was discovered in 1960 [180]. The mechanism of action of paromomycin is inhibition of protozoan protein synthesis by binding to the 30S ribosomal subunit resulting in the accumulation of abnormal 30S–50S ribosomal complexes and finally causing cell death [180]. Paromomycin can be used in pregnant leishmaniasis patients [180].

Starting in 1993, WHO/TDR supported studies of topical paromomycin treatment for cutaneous leishmaniasis [204, 205, 206] as well as studies for qualifying injectable formulations for treatment of visceral leishmaniasis (including mutagenicity and genotoxicity studies, a study on the bioequivalence of two injectable formulations and a multi-centre study comparing the efficacy and safety of injectable paromomycin with that of amphotericin B [154, 207, 208]. Lack of funding resulted in development being put on hold after completion of a Phase II study in 2000 and was resumed in 2001-2002 in partnership with the Institute of One World Health had received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/media-center/press-releases/2002/08/institute-for-oneworld-health-receives-grant>, accessed 28 June 2022) [209, 210]. Paromomycin was registered for visceral leishmaniasis in 2006 [178]. Paromomycin can be used in pregnant leishmaniasis patients [180].

2.4 Antifungal drugs

2.4.1 Itraconazole

Itraconazole is a broad-spectrum antifungal azole drug, patented in 1978 and approved by the US FDA in 1992 (<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=overview.process&ApplNo=020083>, accessed 28 June 2022). Azoles inhibit the synthesis of ergosterol via the inhibition of lanosterol 14 α -demethylase resulting in fungal membrane destruction. Itraconazole also impacts several metabolic pathways important for human cell proliferation resulting in interest in repurposing itraconazole for cancer therapy [211]. Itraconazole, like other azoles, is metabolized by cytochrome P450 3A4. Therefore, drug-drug interactions with other drugs metabolized by CYP450 3A4 need to be considered [212].

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