

Q. Is the drug combination of ivermectin and albendazole a rational combination. If yes, what is the dose and what is the safety profile?

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A. Ivermectin and albendazole combination is a rational combination for the treatment and prophylaxis of lymphatic filariasis caused by *Wuchereria bancrofti*(1,2). For trichuriasis, albendazole + Ivermectin gives significantly higher cure and egg reduction rates than the other treatments and significantly reduces prevalence rates of the illness(3,4). Combination therapy also results in significantly greater gains in height (hookworm-infected children) or weight (Trichuris-infected children) compared with the placebo group(4). However, the combination was not significantly more effective in treatment of other helminthic infestations. There is not enough data on the superiority of this combination over ivermectin alone in difficult to treat ectoparasitic infections like hyperkeratotic (crusted or 'Norwegian') scabies, pediculosis and cutaneous larva migrans. The dose in cases where it is indicated is a single dose combination tablet of albendazole and ivermectin in children older than 5 years of age.

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