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Muhammad Irfanullah Siddiqui

Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia

Comparison of allopathic and herbal medicine for the treatment of *Entamoeba histolytica*; a double blind clinical trial

Objective: This parallel, randomized, double blind clinical trial was designed to compare allopathic drugs MDF (a combination of metronidazole + diloxanide furoate) with Endemali (herbal product) for therapeutic cure rate and side effects in order to find out the most suitable drug for this killer disease.

Methodology: This double blind randomized clinical trial was conducted in 2 areas of Karachi, Pakistan after approval from ethical committee of Hamdard University. All those confirmed for E. histolytica were included in the study. 171 patients selected for study randomly allocated to two arms of 86 and 85 for allopathic and herbal treatment respectively. However, 78 in allopathic and 75 in herbal group completed the study. Main outcome variable was treatment success or failure. Secondary outcome measures included side effects, and association with age and sex.

Results: No significant difference was observed in the socioeconomic and demographic variables at the baseline. No significant difference was found between the cure rate of MDF and Endemali; hence both drugs were equally effective in treating amoebiasis. Significant differences were reported for the side effects observed among the 2 groups and the price. The failure rate for the two drugs was 28.7%.

Conclusion: It is concluded that both Endemali and MDF are equally effective in treating amoebiasis. However, Endemali has fewer side effects than MDF. New drugs need to be researched for the treatment of *Entamoeba histolytica* because of high failure rate of the two drugs against this killer organism.

Biography

Muhammad Irfanullah Siddiqui is a Full Professor of Community Medicine and Public Health, Umm Al-Qura University. His main interest is in the field of research methodology, biostatistics and epidemiology. He is also responsible for Research and Evaluation Unit, Students Mentoring Program. He served at very important and highly academic positions including, Chairman, Department of Community Health Sciences, of Hamdard, Baqai and Bahria universities. He was Dean Faculty of Health Sciences, as well as Director MPH program, Baqai University. He is Chief Editor of famous book of Community Medicine and Public Health. He is editor and reviewer of journals of academic excellence. He is MBBS graduate of Dow Medical College and did his MPH, MCPS, FCPS and MPhil in the field of Community Medicine and earned various awards in the field of education. He has conducted more than 200 research methodology workshops at national and international level. Currently, he is working on various funded projects of public health importance.

Irfan7255@yahoo.com