

The first elimination of onchocerciasis in Africa: Challenges and lessons from the Sudan experience

Tarig Higazi

Ohio University, United States



Abstract

The first confirmed elimination of Onchocerciasis in Africa has been reported in Abu Hamed focus along River Nile, Northern Sudan in 2015. Transmission of the disease has been interrupted in the Galabat focus on the Ethiopian boarder in Eastern Sudan in 2017. These studies provided evidence that continued and intensified ivermectin treatment alone could interrupt the disease transmission in as little as 15 rounds of documented treatment. However, they also indicated the unique nature and challenges of each disease focus even within the same country. The diverse challenges of onchocerciasis elimination campaigns in Sudan will be described including major environmental changes e.g. inception of hydropower dams and the first example of cross-boarder coordinated strategy in Africa. The latter experience would be vital for many foci across Africa and Sudan's remaining disease foci, KhorYabos and Radom, which are believed to be shared with Ethiopia, South Sudan & DRC.

Speaker Publications:

1. "Polymerase chain reaction pool screening used to compare prevalence of infective black flies in two onchocerciasis foci in northern Sudan"; International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance ISSN: 0952-6862 Publication date: 23 August 2013
2. "Use of interactive live digital imaging to enhance histology learning in introductory level anatomy and physiology classes", anatomypubs. published: 08 March 2011
3. "Chemotherapy in the treatment, control, and elimination of human onchocerciasis; Research and reports in Tropical Medicine Published 21 October 2014 Volume 2014:5 Pages 77—93
4. Dengue Fever in the Darfur Area, Western Sudan; EID Journal; Volume 25, Number 11—November 2019
5. The impact of Merowe Dam on Simulium hamedense vector of onchocerciasis in Abu Hamed focus - Northern Sudan; Parasites & vectors; Article number: 168 (2014)

[15th World Conference on Infectious Diseases, Prevention and Control](#); Dubai, UAE- March 19-20, 2020.

Abstract Citation:

Tarig Higazi, The first elimination of onchocerciasis in Africa: Challenges and lessons from the Sudan experience, Infectious Diseases Conf 2020, 15th International Conference on Infectious Diseases, Prevention and Control; Dubai, UAE, March 19-20, 2020 (<https://infectious-diseases.conferenceseries.com/2020>)

Biography:

Dr. Higazi has received his PhD in Zoology from the University of Khartoum, Sudan in 1999 followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Currently, he is working as an assistant professor of Biological Sciences in Ohio University. He is a reviewer of several reputable journals like Anatomical Sciences Education where he recently published a novel teaching technique and awarded an appeared on the cover. He has authored over 20 research articles/books. He is a member of Human Anatomy and physiology Society among others.