

Abstract

Randomized double blind study on efficacy of intralesional metronidazole vs intralesional sodium stibogluconate in cutaneous leishmaniasis

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Abstract**Background**

Sodium stibogluconate is considered as the gold standard treatment for cutaneous leishmaniasis. Poor response to Sodium stibogluconate has been identified in Sri Lanka highlighting the need for alternative treatments.

Methods

A Randomized, double blind clinical trial was conducted at Dermatology unit, Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura to assess the efficacy of intra-lesional metronidazole in *Leishmania donovani* cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL). Patients were randomly allocated to a test group which received intra-lesional Metranidazole and to the control group which received Sodium stibogluconate (SSG) weekly for 8 sessions. Patients were reviewed at intervals for 6 months to document the treatment response and for further 6 months to identify relapses. The cure rate at 12 and 24 weeks were assessed using a stratified analysis with chi- squared test.

Results

Out of 100 study participants, 53 who received SSG and 47 who received metranidazole completed the observational period. 39.6% of SSG group and 14.8% of metranidazole group had achieved complete response at 12 weeks. The complete cure rate further increased to 66.03% and 29.78% at 24 weeks respectively ($p > 0.05$). There were two relapses at further 6 months observational period in SSG group but the relapse rate was zero for metranidazole group.

Conclusions

The standard treatment SSG shows superior efficacy to metranidazole in treating CL caused by *leishmania donaovani* in Sri Lanka. However Intra-lesional metranidazole showed 29.78 % response rate with no relapses indicating it can be used as an alternative treatment.

Key words: Cutaneous Leishmaniasis; Sodium Stibogluconate; Metronidazole

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