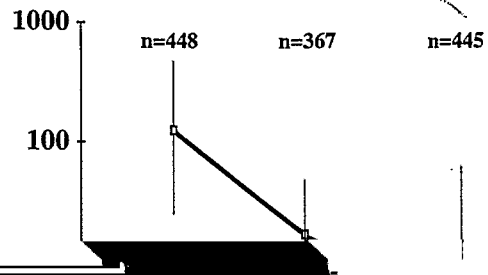


Short Report

Decreased prevalence and intensity of *Loa loa* infection in a community treated with ivermectin every three months for two years



The effect of treatment on the human parasite reservoir was dramatic. The reduction in the median microfilarial density was almost logarithmic (Fig. 1). After 2 years of treatment, the Williams's geometrical mean microfilarial density was reduced to 8% of its initial value (Fig. 2), and no microfilaria was seen in the thick blood films of 80% of people who had been microfilaraemic before treatment. The decrease in prevalence of microfilaraemia was particularly significant after the first year of treatment, suggesting a cumulative effect of ivermectin on the adults of *L. loa* and/or on the fecundity of the female worms.

A longer survey of the incidence of the disease, particularly in children less than 5 years old (who were not treated during this study due to ivermectin contraindication), and a study of the changes in the concomitant entomological transmission indices, would be helpful in estimating the effect on transmission of large-scale control of the reservoir *L. loa*.

In conclusion, whereas the impact of microfilaricidal treatment on the parasite reservoir has been demon-

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