

Addendum to East African trypanosomiasis in Nkhotakota District

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The Table below shows the admission of patients with trypanosomiasis to Nkhotakota District Hospital from January to July 1991.

Table Trypanosomiasis admissions to Nkhotakota District Hospital from January to July 1991

	Total (Blood film +)	Reinfection (? relapse)	Deaths	Early Stage	Late Stage
Jan	34	-	1	28	6
Feb	33	-	3	28	5
March	34	1	5	29	5
April	18	-	2	16	2
May	13	1	4	7	6
June	7	1	1	5	2
July	8	2	1	6	2
TOTAL	147	5	17	119	28

Figure 1 (Page 99) highlights the high incidence of trypanosomiasis during the rainy season. Seasonal farming activities may modify man-fly-man contacts and high humidity stimulates egg-hatching and increases the number of flies.

5 patients with trypanosomiasis treated during 1990 were readmitted with relapses or reinfections. These patients had had a negative blood film at their check-up. All of them lived adjacent to the game-reserve (farmers or their family) so it is likely that these are reinfections.

17 (11.5%) of patients died. 7 were Late Stage

patients and 3 of them had a fatal reaction on Melarsoprol treatment. One patient was HIV positive.

Drugs

Stocks of suramin and melarsoprol should last until the beginning 1992. These have been donated by the EEC, Médecins Sans Frontières and Salima ADD. Further donors have been identified and future supplies of drugs should be more certain.

Prevention

The Veterinary Department, Lilongwe will be introducing fly-traps close to the Game-Reserve (funded by EEC). This will reduce the fly population and should interrupt the extent of man-fly-man contacts.

Training and planning

In September 1991 a training workshop on the "Management and Follow up of Sleeping Sickness Patients" is planned for Health Personnel in Nkhotakota District. During this first session 10 participants from over the whole district will be trained. Subsequent sessions are planned in the future.

Dr. Y. Nyasulu, Disease Control Coordinator, Ministry of Health is organizing future trypanosomiasis control activities. Donors are being identified to implement a control-programme and to start training sessions. A clinical trial of a new trypanosomiasis drug (D.F.M.O.) may be undertaken at Nkhotakota District Hospital.