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MEETING OF THE WHO INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON ECHINOCOCCOSIS (WHO-IWGE)

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland 15–16 December 2016



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CONTENTS

Exec	cutive summary	٧			
Key	messages	V			
Decl	larations of interest	V			
1.	Background and objectives	1			
1.1	Vision of WHO	1			
1.2	Meeting objectives	2			
2.	Outstanding problems in the fields of CE and AE	2			
2.1	Updating current knowledge and practices	2			
	Box 1. EG95 vaccine	2			
	Box 2. Clinical management of CE	3			
	Box 3. Mapping of CE and AE	4			
	Box 4. Screening ethics	5			
2.2	Dissemination of best clinical and control practices.	6			
	Box 5. Ultrasound screening and training for CE: the Argentinian experience	6			
2.3	Accessibility and use of best clinical and control practices	6			
	Box 6. Problems in benzimidazole antiparasitic treatment	6			
3.	Future research	8			
	Box 7. Is evidence from case series of patients admissible for treatment recommendations?	9			
4.	WHO-IWGE meeting consensus.	9			
4.1	Structure of the WHO-IWGE.	9			
4.2	Working groups	9			
4.3	Aims and objectives of the WHO-IWGE: concepts of a renewed way forward	11			
4.4	Deliverables	11			
	Box 8. Experience of TDR with databases.	11			
	Box 9. The European Register of Cystic Echinococcosis (ERCE)	11			
	Box 10. Human cystic Echinoccosis ReseArch in Central and Eastern Societies (HERACLES)	12			
	Box 11. South American initiative for the surveillance, diagnosis and control of CE	12			
5.	References	13			
A		1.5			
	ex 1.Participants				
	Annex 2.Agenda of the meeting				
Anne	ex 3. Life cycles and points of intervention of echinococcosis	18			

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WHO Department for Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases and the newly appointed co-chairs of the WHO Informal Working Group on Echinococcosis (WHO-IWGE) convened a meeting at WHO headquarters in Geneva on 15–16 December 2016 to define the structure, participation, objectives, timelines and deliverables of the WHO-IWGE for the following two years and to renew WHO-IWGE activities.

The meeting was attended by representatives of endemic regions, with a wide range of areas of expertise and networks, who constitute the WHO-IWGE Steering Group (see Annex 1). Participants recommended that the WHO-IWGE take a problem-oriented, pragmatic approach to updating clinical and control procedures within the constraint of a tight budget and move cystic echinococcosis (CE) and alveolar echinococcosis (AE) into mainstream clinical medicine and public health, where appropriate with a One Health approach. The Steering Group will initiate, coordinate and facilitate the activities of the wider group of CE and AE experts and seek additional advice from outside the field. The Group initiated thematic working groups on clinical CE, CE control, clinical AE and AE control. Experts in these fields will be invited to participate in the working groups to prepare as a first step concise technical manuals with immediate practical application to improve the quality of patient care and infection control.

The agenda of the meeting is shown in Annex 2 and the life cycle of echinococcosis and the points at which intervention is possible in Annex 3.

KEY MESSAGES

- CE and AE differ in their transmission cycles and disease manifestations. For practical purposes, such as the production of technical manuals, clinical and control issues for the two diseases will be addressed separately.
- CE and AE should be moved into mainstream clinical medicine and public health, where appropriate with a One Health approach. Input from a broad range of disciplines in clinical medicine and public health will be instrumental in development and innovation in neglected tropical diseases.
- Tools and recommendations elaborated by the WHO-IW-GE will be disseminated through national and international health policy channels and major medical and public health conferences to improve access to updated and innovative clinical and control strategies.
- The main deliverables of the coming two years are clinical and control technical manuals with immediate practical impact.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All participants completed WHO declaration of interest forms before the meeting. The forms were submitted to and reviewed by the WHO Secretariat. No conflict of interest was identified.

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