EDITED BY: FRANÇOISE PORTAELS PAUL JOHNSON WAYNE M. MEYERS



A MANUAL FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



ulcerans disease

#### This manual was published thanks to financial support from:



The Association Française Raoul Follereau (AFRF), France is an NGO dedicated to leprosy control in 31 countries worldwide. It also supports six research projects on leprosy, including the genome sequencing of *Mycobacterium leprae*. Long before the first International Conference on Buruli Ulcer Control and Research, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 1998, AFRF had taken up the new challenge of the health and social problems caused by Buruli ulcer, working in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire since 1996. The Association also provides financial

assistance to research activities on the genome sequencing of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* and on the drug treatment of the disease. It is now considering supporting other countries, starting with Ghana. AFRF is committed to mobilizing the international support needed to meet the challenges posed by Buruli ulcer. For more information, visit the AFRF website: http://www.raoul-follereau.org



ANESVAD, Spain is an NGO that has been working against leprosy and implementing health, social and educational projects in 28 of the poorest developing countries for over 30 years. Currently it counts on the support of over 135 000 partners and collaborators in Spain. It has recently begun work on Buruli ulcer in

Côte d'Ivoire, carrying out programmes to detect the disease at an early stage and undertaking prevention, surgical treatment, training of specialized medical staff and social awareness campaigns, with the aim of limiting the impact of Buruli ulcer.

For more information, visit the ANESVAD website: http://www.anesvad.org



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international humanitarian aid organization that provides emergency medical assistance to populations in danger in more than 80 countries. MSF Luxembourg has been involved in Buruli ulcer control activities in Benin since 1997. MSF has upgraded the Lalo Health Centre with surgical and laboratory facilities to improve the care of patients. Apart from surgical activities, other key activities include

health education in affected communities, case-finding and training of health care providers, teachers and traditional healers. In terms of Buruli ulcer research, MSF is collaborating with the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. For more information, visit the MSF Luxembourg's website at: http://www.msf.lu



The Nippon Foundation, Japan is a private grant-making foundation whose activities cover social welfare, public health, volunteer support and overseas assistance. Since 1975 it has been working through the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation to aid WHO in its fight to eliminate leprosy. Starting in 1998, The Nippon Foundation also began providing financial support to the WHO Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative. The Foundation, in tandem

with WHO and several academic institutions, is currently exploring options for improved surgical management of the disease. Finally, it is also collaborating with WHO, AFRF and other partners to find a drug treatment for Buruli ulcer. For more information, visit The Nippon Foundation's website at: http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp

# Buruii Ulcer

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Diagnosis of Mycobacterium ulcerans disease



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## **Contents**

Preface	1
Illustrations	2
Introduction	3
Chapter 1. Clinical diagnosis	7
Chapter 2. Biosafety and record-keeping in the laboratory	15
Chapter 3. Collection and transport of clinical specimens	19
Chapter 4. Secondary bacterial infection in <i>M. ulcerans</i> disease	23
Chapter 5. Microbiological methods	27
Chapter 6. Histopathological methods	37
Annex 1. Flow chart for the laboratory diagnosis of <i>M. ulcerans</i> disease	48
Annex 2. Laboratory request form	49
Annex 3. Laboratory report form	51
Annex 4. Preparation of culture media	52
Annex 5. Microbiological staining techniques	54
Annex 6. Histopathological staining techniques	59
Annex 7. Decontamination methods	68
Annex 8. M. ulcerans culture with BACTEC 460 TB instrument	71
Annex 9. Biochemical and culture tests used to identify mycobacteria	72
Annex 10. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) protocol	78
Annex 11. Manufacturers' addresses	84
Annex 12. Work of WHO on Buruli ulcer	85
Annex 13. Some research institutions involved in Buruli ulcer activities	87

Annex 14. Some nongovernmental organizations and others involved in Buruli ulcer activities
Table 1 Differential diagnoses of various forms of Buruli ulcer
Table 2 Disinfectants recommended for use in laboratories studying M. ulcerans
Table 3 Specimen collection and laboratory methods for each care-level
Table 4 Phenotypic characteristics of M. ulcerans and related species
Table 5 Characteristics of the different geographical subgroups of M. ulcerans
Table 6 In vitro susceptibility of M. ulcerans to antimycobacterial drugs
Table 7 Preparation of inhibitory agents
Table 8 Urease activity

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89

90

#### **Preface**

This manual is to assist health care providers and laboratory scientists to diagnose *Mycobacterium ulcerans* disease (Buruli ulcer). The manual aims to achieve a better understanding of the clinical presentation and its diagnosis. The methods described are tailored to various levels of care and available resources to improve the diagnosis and surveillance of the disease.

**Please note:** This manual is not intended to serve as a standard of laboratory methods. It is not a replacement for textbooks on laboratory work. Adherence to it will not ensure a successful outcome in every case, nor should it be construed as including all proper methods of laboratory diagnosis or excluding other acceptable methods aimed at the same results. Ultimate judgement regarding a particular method must be made by the health care provider or laboratory scientist in the light of the clinical findings in the patient and the available options for diagnosis.

### Illustrations

Fig. 1 Fig. 2	World map showing distribution of Buruli ulcer (WHO) Papule (John Hayman)	Fig. 28	Early healing of a Buruli ulcer in the organizing phase (AFIP Courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 3 Fig. 4	Nodule (Mark Evans) Plaque (Mark Evans)	Fig. 29	Delayed hypersensitivity granuloma in healing Buruli ulcer (AFIP)
Fig. 5 Fig. 6	Oedematous forms (May Smith and Kingsley Asiedu) Ulcers (May Smith and Mark Evans)	Fig. 30	Advanced stage of healing Buruli ulcer (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 7 Fig. 8	Osteomyelitis (Giovanni Batista Priuli) Contractures (Marcel Crozet)	Fig. 31	Lymphadenopathy in Buruli ulcer (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 9 Fig. 10	Hypertrophic scar (Pius Agbenorku) Squamous cell carcinoma following Buruli ulcer	Fig. 32	Necrotic lymphadenitis in a lymph node proximal to a Buruli ulcer (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 11	(Mark Evans) Differential diagnosis (Wayne Meyers)	Fig. 33	X-ray of the leg showing destruction of the bone (Giovanni Battista Priuli)
Fig. 12 Fig. 13	Containers for specimens (Paul Johnson) Swabbing technique (May Smith)	Fig. 34	Osteomyelitis of tibia showing necrosis of the marrow (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 14 Fig. 15	Mouse tail inoculation (Bernard Carbonnelle) Culture characteristics of African and Australian	Fig. 35	Osteomyelitis of tibia with masses of AFB in necrotic marrow (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 16	M. ulcerans strains (Françoise Portaels) Polymerase chain reaction results (Paul Johnson)	Fig. 36	Osteomyelitis of tibia showing necrosis of marrow (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 17	Section of surgically resected nodule of <i>M. ulcerans</i> disease (John Hayman)	Fig. 37	Ziehl-Neelsen stained smear from a Buruli ulcer (Françoise Portaels)
Fig. 18 Fig. 19	Microscopic section of a nodule (AFIP) Skin and subcutaneous tissue from centre of a	Fig. 38	Fluorochrome stained smear showing AFB (Wellcome Trust courtesy of AM Emmerson)
_	non-ulcerated lesion (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)	Fig. 39	Section of tissue from a Buruli ulcer patient stained by
Fig. 20	Necrotic base of Buruli ulcer (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)	=	the Harris' hematoxylin-eosin method showing panniculitis (AFIP courtesy Wayne Meyers)
Fig. 21	Severe vasculitis in subcutaneous tissue lesion	Fig. 40	Section of a lymph node from a Buruli ulcer patient

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