School-based combined mass drug administration for soil-transmitted helminthiases and schistosomiasis among school-age children: lessons from two co-endemic areas in the Philippines

Vicente Ylanan Belizario Jr.¹,²*, Jose Rafael Marfori², Paul Lester Chua², June Rose Naig³, Jeffrey Mark Erfe²,³

¹Department of Parasitology, College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila, 625 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila 1000, Philippines
²Neglected Tropical Diseases Study Group, National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila, 623 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila 1000, Philippines
³Yale University School of Medicine, 333 Cedar St., New Haven, CT 06510, USA

PEER REVIEW
Peer reviewer
Prof. Sung-Tae Hong, Department of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine, College of Medicine, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea.
Tel: +82 2 7408343
Fax: +82 2 7656142
E-mail: hst@snu.ac.kr

Comments
This paper is well written and clearly describes their experience of MDAs. The findings reconfirmed that MDA was safe and acceptable, which is well known.
Details on Page 362

ABSTRACT
Objective: To demonstrate the safety and feasibility of school-based combined mass drug administration (MDA) using albendazole and praziquantel in selected areas in the Philippines.
Methods: This study consisted of two phases: Phase I assessed the safety and feasibility of combined MDA; Phase II assessed the feasibility of teacher-assisted combined MDA. Sites chosen had ongoing school-based MDA of albendazole for soil-transmitted helminthiases in order to demonstrate integration of services by adding MDA of praziquantel for schistosomiasis onto the manpower and infrastructure of the existing program.
Results: School-based combined MDA coverage rates were 80.1% and 75.5% in Phases I and II, respectively. Of students treated, 5.2% in Phase I and 5.4% in Phase II experienced adverse events, which were mostly mild and transient. In Phase II, the average time for combined treatment was less than one minute per student, with shorter times observed in older age groups.
Conclusions: Integration of MDA in schools may help in achieving good treatment coverage for soil-transmitted helminthiases and schistosomiasis control among school-age children. The safety profile and feasibility of school-based combined MDA as demonstrated by this study may provide basis for larger scale implementation in other co-endemic areas.

KEY WORDS
Intestinal helminthiasis, Schistosomiasis, School-age population, Neglected diseases, Praziquantel, Albendazole

1. Introduction
Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of chronic and disabling conditions which are mostly infectious diseases of poverty[11]. In many developing countries including the Philippines, NTDs such as soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH) and schistosomiasis, remain highly prevalent. The highest burden of STH and schistosomiasis among all age groups is found among school-age children[2], contributing to undernutrition, permanent growth deficits, anemia, micronutrient deficiency, school absenteeism, and poor academic performance[3-5].

To reduce morbidity and transmission of NTDs, the World Foundation Project: The study was supported by Johnson & Johnson, Inc. and Asian Community Trust.

*Corresponding author: Vicente Ylanan Belizario Jr., MD, MTM & H, Department of Parasitology, College of Public Health, Lara Hall, University of the Philippines Manila, 623 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila 1000, Philippines.
Tel: (632) 523 5929
E-mail: vybelizario@upm.edu.ph, vbelizar@yahoo.com

Article history:
Received 21 Nov 2014
Received in revised form 29 Dec 2014
Accepted 10 Jan 2015
Available online 19 Mar 2015
Health Organization (WHO) recommends preventive chemotherapy involving large-scale distribution of anthelminthics to population groups at risk[1,6,7]. In developing countries, geographic overlap of some NTDs is common, signifying co-endemicity and the need for co-administration of anthelminthics by integrating mass drug administration (MDA) activities[6,8]. This strategy offers opportunities for cost-effectiveness especially in low-resource rural communities[8,9].

Despite evidence that combining MDA is safe, many NTD control programs in developing countries cover only a single disease[10,11]. Little integration has been advocated[10-12], with separate MDA schemes and schedules for each type of helminth infection. This study aimed to demonstrate the safety and feasibility of school-based, teacher-assisted combined MDA using albendazole (ALB) and praziquantel (PZQ) in two co-endemic areas for STH and schistosomiasis in the Philippines.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Phase I: pilot assessment of safety and feasibility of school-based combined MDA study sites

The study sites were two villages, Hinab-Ongan and Marcelo, in the municipality of Calatrava, Negros Occidental Province in Central Philippines. In these sites, the University of the Philippines Manila has provided technical support to the Department of Health (DOH) for implementation of the Integrated Helminth Control Program, providing basis for their selection. Combined MDA with ALB and PZQ was administered to school children in one public elementary school per village. All students in grades four to six (10-12 years old) enrolled in Hinab-Ongan and Marcelo Elementary Schools were targeted for school-based combined MDA.

2.1.1. School-based combined MDA scheme

Prior to MDA, light meals were provided to all students. ALB (400 mg) was administered by trained health workers from the Department of Education (DepEd) and local health unit (LHU) to targeted students in a classroom setting, while PZQ (40 mg/kg) was administered by LHU health workers in a treatment station located within the school premises.

2.1.2. Incidence, assessment of severity and causation of adverse events (AEs)

Teachers received complaints from students during the observation period (four hours post-treatment) in the classrooms and referred them to project physicians for appropriate management. Project team physicians in collaboration with medical officers and nurses from the DepEd and LHU assessed AEs for severity and causality, then managed them, as necessary, in a makeshift clinic inside the school principal’s office.

An AE was defined as any unfavorable and unintended sign, symptom, or disease temporally associated with the co-administration of ALB and PZQ, regardless of the relationship to the drugs[13]. AEs occurring up to four hours post treatment were recorded on case record forms. Management of AEs and observed outcomes were also documented on the case record form.

The incidence and severity of AEs were obtained for the reported signs and symptoms including: dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, fever and allergic reaction. Their severity was categorized as: (a) mild, (b) moderate, (c) severe, and (d) life-threatening. Their relationship to combined MDA was categorized as: (a) not related, (b) unlikely, (c) possible, (d) probable, and (e) most probable[14]. Total AEs reported during the four-hour observation period was the overall incidence of AEs. The proportion of participants reporting one or more AEs was recorded separately.

2.2. Phase II: larger-scale assessment of feasibility of school-based combined MDA study sites

Study sites for Phase II were the municipalities of Carmen and Santo Tomas, Davao del Norte Province in Southern Philippines, which had more co-endemic villages than Calatrava. From seven selected villages, eight public elementary schools and two public high schools were included. Students in all grade and year levels were targeted for combined MDA.

2.2.1. School-based combined MDA scheme

Training was conducted for health personnel from the DepEd and LHU (medical officers, nurses, midwives, and village health workers), as well as clinic teachers from selected schools. The clinic teachers and health staff then performed roll-out orientation of all class teachers and parents using instructional powerpoint presentations used in the training. To determine appropriate PZQ dosage, the latest data for body weight of all students participating in the combined MDA was gathered prior to the scheduled MDA through the DepEd semi-annual nutritional status assessment. Coordination with nearby secondary level hospitals was done in preparation for possible referrals for any severe AEs.

Prior to MDA, light meals were provided to all students as facilitated by parents. Support for feeding was provided by DOH Region XI. Trained class teachers co-administered ALB and PZQ to students in classrooms in the presence of a health worker (Figure 1). The trained nurses and midwives assisted in the combined MDA. Teachers accomplished record forms documenting coverage rate and duration of combined MDA.

Figure 1. Administration of deworming tablets. A trained teacher administered ALB and PZQ tablets to students in the classroom setting in the presence of a health worker.
2.2.2. Incidence, assessment of severity and causation of AEs

During the observation period in classrooms, teachers referred students with complaints to the nurses and midwives, who then performed initial assessment of AEs with assistance from project team physicians (Figure 2). Students with mild AEs were reassured, allowed to rest, and observed by trained nurses and midwives. AEs of at least moderate severity were referred to the project team physicians for further assessment and appropriate management. The methodology for assessment of incidence, severity, and causation was identical to that in Phase I.

2.3. Data processing and analysis

Data was double encoded on pre-tested forms prepared from MS Excel 2007 sheets. Safety parameters included incidence, severity, and causation of AEs. Feasibility was described through implementation indicators such as coverage rates, duration of combined MDA, average time for combined MDA, utilization of existing personnel and infrastructure. The coverage rate of school-based combined MDA was computed as:

\[
\text{Coverage rate} = \frac{\text{Number of students who took ALB and PZQ tablets}}{\text{Number of students enrolled}} \times 100
\]

In Phase II, duration of combined MDA was measured by the difference between the time of treatment of the first student and the time of treatment of the last student in each classroom. Coverage and duration were determined for the following groups: Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, and high school. The average time for combined MDA per student was computed as:

\[
\text{Average time for combined MDA} = \frac{\text{Duration of combined MDA (minutes)}}{\text{Number of students who took ALB and PZQ tablets}}
\]

Fisher’s exact tests were conducted using STATA 12 to determine the significant difference of incidence of AEs among study sites and grade levels. Level of significance was set at \( P < 0.05 \).

2.4. Ethical considerations

Both protocols for Phases I and II were reviewed and approved by the University of the Philippines Manila Research Ethics Board (UPMREB-2012-041-NIH and UPMREB-2012-0181-NIH, respectively). Individual informed consent was obtained by properly oriented class teachers from the parents of study participants. Assent of students (12-15 years old) was also obtained prior to participation in the study. Medical interventions conducted by trained physicians for moderate or severe AEs complied with DOH guidelines (i.e., DOH - Administrative Orders No. 2006-28, 2007-15, and 2010-23).

3. Results

3.1. Phase I: pilot assessment of safety and feasibility of school-based combined MDA

A total of 408 students were enrolled in grades four to six in the two selected schools in Calatrava, Negros Occidental, of whom 327 (80.1%) received both ALB and PZQ. Of these, 17 (5.2%) were assessed to have AEs. The number of students who were assessed to have AEs was significantly higher in Hinab-Ongan Elementary School (9.8%) than in Marcelo Elementary School (3.7%) \(( P = 0.043)\).

Reported AEs following the combined MDA included dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Dizziness was most common with an incidence of 3.1%, all assessed as mild. Moderate AEs comprised one case each of headache, nausea, and vomiting. Most AEs were assessed as “possibly” or “most probably” caused by co-administration of ALB and PZQ (Table 1).

| Clinical signs/symptoms | Incidence (n = 327) | Severity | Causality |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| Dizziness               | 10 (3.1)            | 10 (100) | Unlikely  |
| Headache                | 8 (2.4)             | 7 (87.5) | Possible  |
| Nausea                  | 7 (2.1)             | 6 (85.7) | Moderate  |
| Vomiting                | 5 (1.5)             | 4 (80.0) | Most      |
| Abdominal               | 4 (1.2)             | 4 (100)  | Unlikely  |
| Sleepiness              | 1 (0.3)             | 1 (100)  | Most      |

A total of 2 410 (75.5% coverage) students were treated with both ALB and PZQ. Of these, 767 (82.0% coverage) were from Carmen and 1 643 (72.8% coverage) were from Santo Tomas. In Carmen, Grades 4-6 required the longest time to finish combined MDA at a rate of 0.94 minutes/student, while high school students required the shortest time at a rate of 0.43 minutes/student. However, some high school classes in Carmen were not included in computation of average time of combined MDA due to the failure of teachers to fill out time record forms properly. In Santo Tomas, Grades 1-3 took the longest at a rate of 0.77 minutes/student, while high school students required the least amount of time to finish treatment, at a rate of 0.50 minutes/student. Of the 2 410 students who received the two drugs, 131 (5.4%) were assessed to have AEs. This percentage was slightly higher in Carmen (7.0%) than in Santo Tomas (4.7%) \(( P = 0.020)\). The number of AEs reported in Grades 1-3 and 4-6 was significantly higher than that reported in first to fourth year high school students \(( P = 0.049)\) and 0.000, respectively (Table 2).

AEs reported following the combined MDA included headache, dizziness, abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, fever, and allergic reaction. Among these AEs, headache was most common at 3.3%. In terms of severity, 93.7% of complaints were mild and 6.3% were moderate in severity. Most AEs were assessed as “possibly” or “most probably” caused by co-administration of ALB and PZQ (Table 3).
were excluded); and time spent for MDA. Administration of a combination of two drugs more easily. Lastly, local health and education personnel factors such as capacity to understand instructions and swallow the drugs and support for feeding prior to MDA, while the DepEd also be assigned to concerned stakeholders in order to implement school-based combined MDA in the project sites was the important component that contributed to the implementation of school-based combined MDA in an existing infrastructure, in this study, the school setting. Schools offer readily available infrastructure which easily covers students, utilizing skilled teachers and local health workers who are in close contact with the community, thus helping minimize costs and time spent for MDA. A diminution of a combination of two anthelmintics to students by teachers, with supervision from local nurses or midwives, may allow achievement of higher coverage rates and diminished period of implementation. In this manner, local health workers may focus on oversight of the MDA implementation as well as assessment and monitoring of AEs.

Safety of combined MDA was demonstrated in both phases of the study. Generally, lower percentage levels of students were assessed to have AEs (5.2% and 5.4% in Phases I and II, respectively) than in another local study, in which 35% of schoolchildren reported symptoms following treatment with both ALB and PZQ[17]. Headache and dizziness were of highest incidence ranging from 2.0% to 3.3%, while in the study by Olds et al., these symptoms had incidence rates of at least 20%. It should be noted, however, that the prevalence of schistosomiasis reported in the study of Olds et al. was at least 50%, compared to the 3.8% to 6.0% prevalence reported in this study prior to the conduct of combined MDA. The rate and intensity of side effects following treatment with PZQ have long been correlated with the dose of PZQ and the intensity of infection[17-19]. Thus, the lower AE rates currently observed may be attributed to the lower prevalence and intensity of schistosomiasis resulting from previous rounds of community-based MDA for schistosomiasis in the study sites.

A assessment of severity of AEs showed that most were mild and not requiring referral to the health center or hospital. Additionally, all AEs resolved in the schools within the four-hour observation period, consistent with the findings of other studies[19-21]. It has been reported that AEs following treatment with PZQ are transient and dose related[17,21].

In this study, initial assessment and management of AEs (i.e., reassurance and rest) did not require physicians, provided local health workers were given adequate orientation and instructions beforehand. In order to build confidence among teachers and health workers in implementing combined MDA in the future, a scheme for assessment and management of AEs demonstrated in this study may be utilized. A referral system linking schools to the LHUs and referral hospitals may also be established.

An important component that contributed to the implementation of school-based combined MDA in the project sites was the multisectoral collaboration among stakeholders. The DOH provided the drugs and support for feeding prior to MDA, while the DepEd provided the infrastructure and manpower, LHUs provided local health workers, and the project team from the academe provided technical support. More specific tasks including advocacy, capacity building, social mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation may also be assigned to concerned stakeholders in order to implement school-based combined MDA in a comprehensive manner[21].

The results of this study may help provide basis for formulation of policy and improvement of guidelines in conducting combined MDA for STH and schistosomiasis. School-based teacher-assisted combined MDA may be further scaled up so that this may be implemented in other co-endemic provinces or areas.

Conflict of interest statement
We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements
The authors wish to extend their gratitude to the Department of Education Division Office of Davao del Norte and Negros Occidental, Department of Health - Centers for Health and Development of Region VI and XI, Provincial Health Team Office of Davao del Norte, Local Government Units of Calatrala, Negros Occidental and Carmen and Santo Tomas, Davao del Norte, and Dr. Carlos Miguel Perez. The authors are also thankful to Dr. Peter San Martin, Dr. Jolene Gatmaitan, and Dr. Harvy Joy Liwanag for providing suggestions on improvement of the manuscript.

4. Discussion
This study has demonstrated that school-based teacher-assisted combined MDA was feasible in terms of a number of implementation indicators. First, both phases of this study demonstrated at least 75% to 80% coverage rates in elementary and high school, reaching the WHO target of 75%(6). Second, combined MDA was completed from just one to two mornings covering a total of 2,737 students from both phases. Third, less than one minute was required for combined MDA to have AEs (5.2% and 5.4% in Phases I and II, respectively) than in another local study, in which 35% of schoolchildren reported symptoms following treatment with both ALB and PZQ[17]. Headache and dizziness were of highest incidence ranging from 2.0% to 3.3%, while in the study by Olds et al., these symptoms had incidence rates of at least 20%. It should be noted, however, that the prevalence of schistosomiasis reported in the study of Olds et al. was at least 50%, compared to the 3.8% to 6.0% prevalence reported in this study prior to the conduct of combined MDA. The rate and intensity of side effects following treatment with PZQ have long been correlated with the dose of PZQ and the intensity of infection[17-19]. Thus, the lower AE rates currently observed may be attributed to the lower prevalence and intensity of schistosomiasis resulting from previous rounds of community-based MDA for schistosomiasis in the study sites.

A assessment of severity of AEs showed that most were mild and not requiring referral to the health center or hospital. Additionally, all AEs resolved in the schools within the four-hour observation period, consistent with the findings of other studies[19-21]. It has been reported that AEs following treatment with PZQ are transient and dose related[17,21].

In this study, initial assessment and management of AEs (i.e., reassurance and rest) did not require physicians, provided local health workers were given adequate orientation and instructions beforehand. In order to build confidence among teachers and health workers in implementing combined MDA in the future, a scheme for assessment and management of AEs demonstrated in this study may be utilized. A referral system linking schools to the LHUs and referral hospitals may also be established.

An important component that contributed to the implementation of school-based combined MDA in the project sites was the multisectoral collaboration among stakeholders. The DOH provided the drugs and support for feeding prior to MDA, while the DepEd provided the infrastructure and manpower, LHUs provided local health workers, and the project team from the academe provided technical support. More specific tasks including advocacy, capacity building, social mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation may also be assigned to concerned stakeholders in order to implement school-based combined MDA in a comprehensive manner[21].

The results of this study may help provide basis for formulation of policy and improvement of guidelines in conducting combined MDA for STH and schistosomiasis. School-based teacher-assisted combined MDA may be further scaled up so that this may be implemented in other co-endemic provinces or areas.

Conflict of interest statement
We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements
The authors wish to extend their gratitude to the Department of Education Division Office of Davao del Norte and Negros Occidental, Department of Health - Centers for Health and Development of Region VI and XI, Provincial Health Team Office of Davao del Norte, Local Government Units of Calatrala, Negros Occidental and Carmen and Santo Tomas, Davao del Norte, and Dr. Carlos Miguel Perez. The authors are also thankful to Dr. Peter San Martin, Dr. Jolene Gatmaitan, and Dr. Harvy Joy Liwanag for providing suggestions on improvement of the manuscript.
This paper describes their experience of MDA for NTDs in a locality. It is not a study for any scientific hypothesis but check safety of MDA s for school children. They suggested school-based MDA s for cost-effectiveness of NTDs control.

Related reports
Most of the cited references and much more articles are published on this topic. School-based MDA is strongly recommended by WHO for control of NTDs in developing countries.

Innovations & breakthroughs
Low incidence (5.2% and 5.4%) of adverse reactions after medication were reported.

Applications
The present finding may be referred to for further MDA program of STH and Schistosoma japonicum.

Peer review
This paper is well written and clearly describes their experience of MDA s. The findings reconfirmed that MDA was safe and acceptable, which is well known.

References
[1] World Health Organization. Sustaining the drive to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases. Second WHO report on neglected tropical diseases. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013. [Online] Available from: http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/9789241564540/en/ [Accessed on 2nd November, 2014]
[2] Pullan RL, Smith JL, Jasrasaria R, Broker SJ. Global numbers of infection and disease burden of soil transmitted helminth infections in 2010. Parasit Vectors 2014; doi: 10.1186/1756-3305-7-37.
[3] Ezeamama AE, Friedman JF, A costa LP, Bellinger DC, Langdon GC, M analo DL, et al. Helminth infection and cognitive impairment among Filipino children. Am J Trop Med Hyg 2005; 72(5): 540-8.
[4] Friedman JF, Kanzaria HK, A costa LP, Langdon GC, M analo DL, Wu H, et al. Relationship between Schistosoma japonicum and nutritional status among children and young adults in Leyte, the Philippines. Am J Trop Med Hyg 2005; 72(5): 527-33.
[5] Hall A, Hewitt G, Tuffrey V, de Silva N. A review and meta-analysis of the impact of intestinal worms on child growth and nutrition. Matern Child Nutr 2008; 4 Suppl 1: 118-236.
[6] World Health Organization. Preventive chemotherapy in human helminthiasis: coordinated use of anthelminthic drugs in control interventions: a manual for health professionals and program managers. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2006. [Online] Available from: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241547103_eng.pdf?ua=1 [Accessed on 2nd November, 2014]
[7] Gabrielli AF, M ontresor A, Chi tsulo L, Engels D, Savioli L. Preventive chemotherapy in human helminthiasis: theoretical and operational aspects. Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg 2011; 105(12): 683-93.
[8] Gya pong O, Gya pong M, Yellu N, A nakwah K, A mofah G, Bockarie M, et al. Integration of control of neglected tropical diseases into healthcare systems: challenges and opportunities. Lancet 2010; 375(9709): 160-5.
[9] M archal B, Van Dormaal M, Pirard M, Cavalli A, Kegels G, Polman K. Neglected tropical disease (NTD) control in health systems: the interface between programmes and general health services. Acta Trop 2011; 120 Suppl 1: S177-85.
[10] Utzinger J. A research and development agenda for the control and elimination of human helminthiasis. PLoS Negl Trop Dis 2012; 6(4): e1646.
[11] Dembele M, Bamani S, Dembele R, Traore MO, Goita S, Traore MN, et al. Implementing preventive chemotherapy through an integrated national neglected tropical disease control program in Mali. PLoS Negl Trop Dis 2012; 6(3): e1574.
[12] Hanson C, Weaver A, Zoerhoff KL, Kabore A, Linehan M, Doherty A, et al. Integrated implementation of programs targeting neglected tropical diseases through preventive chemotherapy: identifying best practices to roll out programs at national scale. Am J Trop Med Hyg 2012; 86(3): 508-13.
[13] World Health Organization. Assuring safety of preventive chemotherapy interventions for the control of neglected tropical diseases: practical advice for national programme managers on prevention, detection and management of serious adverse events. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011. [Online] Available from: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502191_eng.pdf [Accessed on 2nd November, 2014]
[14] Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. WHO toxicity grading scale for determining the severity of adverse events. Appendices: Division of Microbiology and Infectious diseases (DM ID) toxicity tables: adult toxicity table May 2001; Pediatric toxicity table February 2003. Bethesda: Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; 2003. [Online] Available from: http://www.icscc.org/Documents/Resources/A EM anual2003A appendicesFebruary_06_2003%20final.pdf [Accessed on 2nd November, 2014]
[15] Karbwang J, Pattou C. Standard operating procedures for clinical investigators. Geneva: World Health Organization; 1999. [Online] Available from: http://www.who.int/trd/publications/trd-research-publications/standard-operating-procedures-for-clinical-investigators/en/ [Accessed on 2nd November, 2014]
[16] Bowen DJ, K reuter M, Spring B, Cofta-Woerpel L, Linnan L, Weiner D, et al. How we design feasibility studies. Am J Prev Med 2009; 36(5): 452-7.
[17] Olds GR, King C, Hewlett J, Olveda R, Wu G, Ouma J, et al. Double-blind placebo-controlled study of concurrent administration of albendazole and praziquantel in schoolchildren with schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections. J Infect Dis 1999; 179(4): 996-1003.
[18] Olliaro PL, V ailant MT, Belizario V, Lwambo NJ, Guldabdalahi M, Pieri OS, et al. A multicentre randomized controlled trial of the efficacy and safety of single-dose praziquantel at 40 mg/kg vs. 60 mg/kg for treating intestinal schistosomiasis in the Philippines, M auritania, Tanzania and Brazil. PLoS Negl Trop Dis 2011; 5(6): e1165.
[19] M hammed KA, Haji HJ, Gabrielli AF, Mubila L, Biswas G, Chitsulo L, et al. Triple co-administration of ivermectin, albendazole and praziquantel in Zanzibar: a safety study. PLoS Negl Trop Dis 2008; 2(1): e171.
[20] Njomo DW, Tomono N, Muhoo M, Mislui J, J osyline KC, M wandawiro CS. The adverse effects of albendazole and praziquantel in mass drug administration by trained school teachers. Afr J Health Sci 2010; 17: 3-4.
[21] Njenga SM, Ng’ang’a PM, Mwanje MT, Bendersa FS, Bockarie MJ. A school-based cross-sectional survey of adverse events following co-administration of albendazole and praziquantel for preventive chemotherapy against urogenital schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis in Kwaile County, Kenya. PLoS One 2014; 9(2): e88315.
[22] World Health Organization. Helminth control in school-age children: a guide for managers of control programmes. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011. [Online] Available from: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241548267_eng.pdf [Accessed on 2nd November, 2014]