

Antimicrobial treatment for buruli ulcer is effective in early, limited disease

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New research shows that two different antimicrobial regimens for treating buruli ulcer (*Mycobacteriu M ulcerans* infection) are effective at treating early, limited disease. This is the conclusion of an Article published Online First and in an upcoming edition of *The Lancet* -- written by Professor Tjip S van der Werf, University Medical Centre Groningen, Netherlands, and colleagues.

Buruli ulcer is classed a neglected [tropical disease](#). The early stage of infection is characterised by a painless nodule, with [lesions](#) developing on the skin, and occasionally in adjacent bone, as the disease progresses. Surgery was the standard treatment for Buruli ulcer disease until WHO issued provisional guidelines in 2004 recommending treatment with [antimicrobial drugs](#) (streptomycin and rifampicin) in addition to surgery. In this study, the authors investigated the efficacy of two regimens of antimicrobial treatment in early-stage *M ulcerans* infection.

In this randomised trial undertaken in two sites in Ghana, patients were eligible for enrolment if they were aged five years or older and had early (duration

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