

Chagas disease: control and elimination

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the Secretariat on Chagas disease: control and elimination,¹

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-second World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretariat on Chagas disease: control and elimination,

Expressing its satisfaction at the considerable progress achieved by countries towards the goal of eliminating Chagas disease by 2010, as recommended in resolution WHA51.14 of the Fifty-first World Health Assembly;

Underlining that 2009 will mark the 100th anniversary of the description of this disease by Dr Carlos Chagas;

Acknowledging the progress made with vector-control strategies;

Recognizing the success achieved through the intergovernmental initiatives in Latin America;

Taking into account the need for the harmonization of diagnostic and treatment procedures;

Recognizing the need for the provision of adequate care for late complications of the disease;

Underlining the need for more effective, safe and adequate drugs, including paediatric formulations, and for better coverage and distribution of those currently available;

Recognizing that the risk of transmission through blood transfusion, organ transplantation and congenital transmission is increasing;

¹ Document EB124/17.

Acknowledging the significant collaboration and support among Member States and the support of other partners and appreciating their continuous assistance,

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to reinforce efforts to strengthen and consolidate national control programmes and to establish them where there are none;
- (2) to establish mechanisms to ensure broad coverage of adequate control measures, including the promotion of decent and healthy living conditions, prevention and the integration of specific actions within health services based on primary care;
- (3) to harmonize systems and strengthen capacities for surveillance, data collection and analysis and dissemination of information;
- (4) to promote and encourage operational research on control of Chagas diseases in order to:
 - (a) interrupt transmission by domestic insect vectors;
 - (b) develop more suitable, safer and more affordable drugs;
 - (c) reduce the risk of late complications of the infection;
 - (d) establish systems of early detection, in particular for the detection of new infections, of congenital infections in newborns and the reactivation of the disease in immunocompromised patients;
 - (e) optimizing blood transfusion safety and screening procedures in endemic and non-endemic countries with special focus on endemic areas.
- (5) to develop public health measures in endemic and non-endemic countries, with special focus on endemic areas, for the prevention of transmission through blood transfusion and organ transplantation, early diagnosis of congenital transmission and management of cases;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to draw attention to the burden of Chagas disease and to the need to provide equitable access to medical services for the management and prevention of the disease;
- (2) to strengthen implementation of vector-control activities in order to achieve interruption of transmission and to promote research to improve or develop new prevention strategies;
- (3) to support the countries of the Americas in order to strengthen intergovernmental initiatives and the technical secretariat of PAHO/WHO as a successful form of technical cooperation among countries;

- (4) to collaborate in order that countries and intergovernmental initiatives set objectives and new goals for the elimination of the transmission of the disease;
- (5) to support the mobilization of national and international, public and private financial and human resources to ensure achievement of the goals;
- (6) to promote research on elimination of Chagas disease;
- (7) to support efforts at collaboration among multisectoral actors, networking among organizations and other interested parties to support the development and implementation of Chagas disease control programmes;
- (8) to report on progress in the elimination of Chagas disease to future World Health Assemblies.

Tenth meeting, 24 January 2009
EB124/SR/10

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