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Onchocerciasis among children aged 7 to 16 years, inhabitants in Togo – West Africa

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Purpose: The purpose of this study is onchocerciasis is one of the three major causes of blindness in Togo.

Methods: The onchocerciasis control program in West Africa developed by Gluey Eye Hospital examined 31546 students during the first six months of 1999. The hospital staff visited thirty schools located in the Mono river region. The method used for the diagnosis of onchocerciasis.

Results: The skin biopsy for onchocerciasis was positive in 3406 students (10.8%). The highest percentage of infection was found in children between 14 and 16 years, corresponding to 80% of the positive cases; 17% of positive skin tests were found in children 14 and 10 years old, and 3% in children under 10 years old.

Conclusion: As ocular system lesions are related to the exposure time and intensity of the infection, through this study we can realize that onchocerciasis in Togo still needs a lot of attention and special public health care.