

region. Coprological assessment for parasites was based on the Kato–Katz technique in both dry and rainy seasons at baseline, 21 days and 3 months post treatment. Single dose albendazole treatment was administered to all patients at baseline.

**Results** Of all the parasites found (hookworm, *Trichuris trichiura*, *Hymenolepis nana*, and *Taenia sp.*), hookworm was the most prevalent. In the dry season, the overall STHs prevalence at pre-treatment was 29%, while 9% and 13% prevalence was recorded at 21 days, and three months after treatment, respectively. However, in the rainy season, the overall STHs prevalence was 8%, while 4% and 12% was recorded at 21 days and three months respectively after ALB treatment. In general, ALB treatment resulted in an overall hookworm egg count reduction rate of 89% in the dry season and 93% in the rainy season, while the *T. trichiura* egg count reduction rate was 100% in both seasons.

**Conclusions** STH infections still remain a significant public health burden in Ghana. Hookworm infection seems to respond poorly or suboptimally to ALB, raising concerns of possible emergence of resistance which may lead to a major setback for the control and elimination of STH infections, especially hookworm infections.

PA-128 **THE EFFICACY OF ALBENDAZOLE AGAINST SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS AND THE IMPACT OF MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION OF ALBENDAZOLE AND IVERMECTIN ON HEALTH STATUS**

Buhari Adamu Hamidu,<sup>1</sup> Tettevi Edward Jenner,<sup>1</sup> Larbi John Asiedu,<sup>2</sup> Mike Osei-Atweneboana<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>CSIR Water Research Institute, Ghana; <sup>2</sup>KNUST, Ghana

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**Background** The lymphatic filariasis (LF) control programme has been on-going in Ghana since 2000 with mass drug administration (MDA) of ivermectin (IVM) and albendazole (ALB). Soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections control is augmented within this programme. Therefore this study aimed to determine the efficacy of ALB against STH infections and impact of MDA on study participants.

**Methods** This was a twelve months longitudinal study. A total of 412 subjects including school children (between the ages of 2–17 years) and pregnant women were randomly selected from four endemic communities in Kpandai district of the Northern