EVALUATION OF CIRCULATING CATHODIC ANTIGEN (CCA) URINE-CASSETTE ASSAY AS A SURVEY TOOL FOR SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI IN DIFFERENT TRANSMISSION SETTINGS WITHIN BUGIRI DISTRICT, UGANDA

Moses Adriko. Vector Control Division, Ministry of Health, Uganda

Results Of the 469 pupils who provided three stool samples for the six Kato-Katz smears, 293 (76%) children had no infection, 109 (23%) were in the light intensity category, while 42 (9%) and 25 (5%) were in the moderate and heavy intensity categories, respectively. Following performance analysis of CCA tests in terms of sensitivity, specificity, negative and positive predictive values, the overall performance of the commercially available CCA test was more informative than single Kato-Katz faecal smear microscopy, the current operational field standard for disease mapping.

Conclusions The current CCA assay is a satisfactory method for surveillance of S. mansoni in an area where disease endemicity is declining due to control interventions. The urine point-of-care CCA test is an attractive tool to augment and perhaps replace the Kato-Katz sampling within ongoing control programmes.