POST-INJECTION PARALYSIS PREVENTION IN NIGER, AFRICA

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PURPOSE: The purpose is to provide tools for Nigerian clinics to aid in prevention of post-injection paralysis from the Quinine injection for malaria.

DESCRIPTION: The most common and effective treatment for malaria in undeveloped countries is the Quinine intramuscular injection. If not properly diluted and administered, quinine can lead to post injection paralysis called the “New Polio” of Africa. In addition, incorrect gluteal and quadriceps injections can lead to sciatic and femoral nerve paralysis respectively.

OBSERVATIONS: In October 2008, a University of MN team of faculty and students traveled to Niger, Africa. Nearly 1/4 of the patients seen by the U of M PT team in Niger suffered from lower extremity paralysis due incorrect injections. This population is primarily children. The common presentation in the clinic is drop foot.

CONCLUSIONS: This post-injection paralysis is 100% preventable with the proper training and education. The U of M PT team will be heading back to Niger, Africa next year to distribute pamphlets, instructional DVDs, and posters about the proper technique and implications of an improper injection.

IMPLICATIONS: Spreading the education on the consequences of an incorrect injection will decrease the occurrence of the post-injection paralysis. In addition, for PT’s traveling in Africa, it is important to be aware of this so they may think to associate it with the malaria treatment of Quinine. They then can contact the clinic of the cases they come across and help to point them in the direction of becoming educated on the correct technique.