

### **A-36: Levamisole in childhood nephrotic syndrome : a preliminary report**

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The use of levamisole in the treatment of childhood nephrotic syndrome has not been reported in Sri Lanka. The objective of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of levamisole to induce and maintain remission in children with steroid responsive but frequently relapsing nephrotic syndrome.

Since December 1992, children with a diagnosis of minimal change nephrotic syndrome, who initially responded to steroid therapy, but became steroid dependent, have been studied. Usually, in such cases the immunosuppressive drug, cyclophosphamide is used. Cyclophosphamide however, has even more serious side effects than steroids - the long term risks of occurrence of malignancy and the possibility of sterility in later life.

Levamisole 2.5 mg/kg combination with prednisolone 1 mg/kg was given daily. Levamisole at the same dosage was continued for 12 weeks. The dose of prednisolone was gradually reduced till the patient was maintained on 2.5 mg every other day.

Remission was induced in all children within 5 days. In 4 out of 5 children, remission has been maintained for 3.5 months. Levamisole appears to be effective in the treatment of steroid dependent nephrotic syndrome.