







A short time ago the criteria for the administration of Mectizan stipulated that only children weighing at least 15 kg or who were at least 90 cm tall could be treated with Mectizan, thus excluding age as a criteria for treatment.

Recently, the Brazilian Program explained their concern about Yanomami children, who last as long as 9 years in reaching 15 kg weight or 90 cm height. Because of this situation, OEPA made a consultation to the Mectizan Expert Committee on the possibility of allowing the administration of Mectizan to children who reached 5 years of age, and allowing this as a criterion for treatment independent of their weight or height.

The Mectizan Expert Committee resolved that Mectizan can be administered to children who comply with at least one of these 3 conditions:

- Having reached 5 years of age
- Weighing 15 kg or more
- Having attained the height of 90 cm or more

This decision encourages the countries to use any of these three criteria when distributing Mectizan and in this way decrease the number of persons left without treatment.

