

APEF: PERIODIC SURVEY - 2003

Observation of results

Sent by Sister Anna Perez-Lossio

Date: 24.04.2003

Name of Hospital / Clinic / Centre:	CHU de Brazzaville		
Address:	Service S.I.P (Soins Intensifs Pédiatrie) B.P. 32 Brazzaville – République de Congo		
Person in charge:	Sister Anna Nun of Saint Joseph of Cluny Mission Javouhey – B.P. 2496 – Brazzaville		tél: 242 58.07.09
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1) TO WHOM DO YOU GIVE LUCERNE LEAF CONCENTRATE (LLC)?

- ✓ Children - Number: 32 children per day
+ 15 outpatient children who come once per week
- Age: between 1 and 15 years
- ✓ Mothers - Number: (2)
- Age: (18 and 32 years)

2) HOW DO YOU USE LLC?

- ✓ Eaten as received (semolina) or after milling/grinding (flour)
 - Flour
- ✓ Size of portion per recipient
 - 1 teaspoon for the moderately malnourished, 2 teaspoons for the serious cases
 - For pregnant mothers, 3 teaspoons/day at the start, then 2 teaspoons/day
- ✓ How is the LLC given? (e.g. mixed with ...)
 - Mixed with a porridge of rice, milk, sugar and salt
- ✓ Do you increase the quantities from the start of the programme? How?
 - That depends on the condition of the child but if the mother follows the treatment regularly, the child improves
 - One or two weeks, depending on how they look

3) IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DO YOU GIVE LLC?

- ✓ Malnutrition:
 - Light (1st degree) (sometimes)
 - Moderate (2nd degree)
 - Severe (3rd degree)
 - Kwashiorkor
 - Marasmus
- ✓ Illnesses:
 - Anaemia (in children with sickle-cell anaemia)
 - Diarrhoea
 - AIDS HIV-positive children (8)
 - Other illnesses
- ✓ Other reasons: Some pregnant women who are very weak from famine and the war

4) WHAT ARE THE OBSERVED POSITIVE EFFECTS?

- ✓ Children (age): - Between 8 months and 15 years. We have 32 children in hospital each day. All receive lucerne, with magnificent results from a nutritional point of view. Therefore I continue
- ✓ Mothers: - I have treated only 2 pregnant women. The result was excellent. I don't work with post-natal women
- ✓ Others: - I have also given it to two children (8 and 12 years old) with sickle-cell anaemia and it has helped them both

5) HOW LONG BEFORE POSITIVE RESULTS ARE OBSERVED?

Start of improvement: About one week
Attainment of satisfactory result: Truly very satisfactory
The children progress rapidly

6) HAVE YOU WITNESSED ANY NEGATIVE EFFECTS?

- No No negative results
- Yes, in the following cases:
 - ✓ At the start: No
 - ✓ Later: No
 - ✓ Details When there is a negative result, it is because the mother has abandoned the treatment

7) YOUR PERSONAL OPINION (on LLC and its use)

Leaf concentrate is a magnificent nutritional supplement for malnourished children.

Here the disaster-hit people who are fleeing the war in the Pool region have received lucerne (leaf concentrate) from Sister Florine. I should like to have some seeds to plant. I have planted the seeds that I have bought and I have made some at a domestic scale. All of it was pressed and taken, but it's hard work.

8) OPINION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS?

Two infant-nurses, who run the Childrens-Recovery drinking station, confess to the effectiveness of treatment with lucerne. (Mrs Marthe Mombolo and Mrs Gisèle Nganga). These 2 infant-nurses are very motivated in baby-nutrition.

9) YOUR PROJECTS AND FUTURE NEEDS

You can send us the lucerne via the Order of Malta and via our Maison Mère de Paris, 21 rue Méchain, 75014 Paris - Sister Marcel

Received on: 24.04.2003

Name: Sister Anna

Extracts from Sister Anna's letters

09.09.2002: Since the 30th August, I've been giving lucerne to all the children in the Service: 32 children

Of the 32 seriously ill children at Recovery, we had 21 who were ill and severely malnourished i.e. with "marasmus". During their stay in Recovery, there was an important increase in weight. The lucerne was mixed with my miracle porridge. I added one teaspoon per child per day, which was well accepted.

..... We presented the lucerne as a new medicine, not as a herb or as a plant.

Even the children in a coma accepted the mixture through a feeding pipe. The HIV-positive children benefited from the lucerne and they have picked up well, as it makes them feel much more lively.

The 21 children with marasme gained between 250g (1/2 lb) and 450g (1 lb) per week after the introduction of lucerne.

20.04.2003: The administering of the lucerne is going well. Numerous out-patient children come to convalesce. I weigh the children, the paediatrician examines them and I give the mother milk and lucerne whilst advising her how to prepare traditional corn porridge ...

Here at S.I.P., I give lucerne to 32 in-patient children; it's full every day. My clinic is always full of children with all sorts of serious illnesses ... A very beautiful experience with the HIV-positive children, who have picked up well.