

Synergies in footcare across NTDs in low and middle-income countries.

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In this talk, Prof Gail Davey will first present the results of a recent systematic review and meta-analysis to assess the association between footwear use and infection or disease for those Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) for which the route of transmission or occurrence may be through the feet. These include Buruli ulcer, cutaneous larva migrans (CLM), leptospirosis, mycetoma, myiasis, podoconiosis, snakebite, tungiasis, and soil transmitted helminth (STH) infections, particularly hookworm infection and strongyloidiasis. Footwear use was significantly associated with a lower odds of infection of Buruli ulcer (OR = 0.15; 95% CI: 0.08–0.29), CLM (OR = 0.24; 95% CI: 0.06–0.96), tungiasis (OR = 0.42; 95% CI: 0.26–0.70), hookworm infection (OR = 0.48; 95% CI: 0.37–0.61), any STH infection (OR = 0.57; 95% CI: 0.39–0.84), strongyloidiasis (OR = 0.56; 95% CI: 0.38–0.83), and leptospirosis (OR = 0.59; 95% CI: 0.37–0.94). No significant association between footwear use and podoconiosis (OR = 0.63; 95% CI: 0.38–1.05) was found and no data were available for mycetoma, myiasis or snakebite. Possible prevention synergies for podoconiosis, STH and mycetoma will be discussed.

Following this, Gail will move to strategies recently initiated to integrate morbidity management and disability prevention across lymphatic filariasis and podoconiosis in Ethiopia. Domains, levels and degrees of potential integration will be outlined, and the possibility of extending integration to other conditions requiring foot care (for example leprosy, mycetoma and diabetes) will be raised.