

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- : Subacute and chronic infections may be treated with triclabendazole or bithionol, which show excellent trematocidal activity with few side-effects. A range of other anthelmintics show variable activity, including carbon tetrachloride, rafoxanide, niclofolan, closantel and oxyclozanide, but their use may be contra-indicated under certain conditions in certain animals. Preventive measures are based on breaking the cycle of transmission by reducing faecal contamination of water bodies, reducing snail populations using molluscicides (usually copper sulphate) or draining swampy fields, restricting access of livestock to aquatic vegetation, and avoiding watercress. Snail control is often difficult, particularly in high rainfall areas where even temporary pools may harbour large snail populations (they aestivate in the ground during dry conditions). Feral or wild animals (such as rabbits) may also continue to act as reservoirs of infection for domestic livestock.