

## GUIDELINES FOR TREATMENT OF FILARIA AS PER NATIONAL FILARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

*(Extracted from National Filaria Control Programme, Operational Manual on Filaria Control: Guideline for NFCP Control Units 2002)*

Persons with acute or chronic manifestations and microfilaria carriers are to be treated with diethylcarbamazine tablets (DEC). The recommended dosage is 6 mg DEC per Kg body weight per day for 12 days to be completed in two weeks (six days in a week).

DEC is generally available as 50 mg or 100 mg tablets. The drug has been in use in India for more than five decades. It is a very safe drug at the recommended dose. The age-wise dose is given below:

Age (in years)	Dose of DEC	Number of Tablets
<2	Nil	Nil
2-3	50 mg	One tablet of 50 mg
4-5	100 mg	One tablet of 100 mg
6-11	150 mg	One tablet of 100 mg + one tablet of 50 mg
12-17	200 mg	Two tablets of 100 mg each
18 & above	300 mg	Three tablets of 100 mg each

### Precautions

The drugs should not be administered on empty stomach. The drug distributor will ensure that the patient swallows the drug in his presence. The drug should not be left with the patient or relatives for consumption later on.

### Contra Indications

The drug should not be given to infants, infirm and old person and pregnant woman and chronically ill person suffering from disease involving heart, lungs, kidneys, etc.

### Side effects of the drug

The main side-effects are fever, nausea and vomiting. The microfilaria carriers may be informed about these side effects which occur only in a few cases but should not be scared to the extent of refusal.

The side effects are temporary and may be manifested after the first or second dose. They disappear within a day or two and generally do not recur. The administration of DEC need not be suspended.