

Skin infections in Australian Aboriginal children: a narrative review

IN REPLY: We thank Morton and Morton for summarising the international evidence for the safety of ivermectin in children and pregnancy. We agree that there is accumulating evidence that ivermectin is likely to be safe in small children and pregnancy.¹⁻³ However, currently in Australia, ivermectin is only licensed for use

in children aged over 5 years and weighing more than 15 kg and when treatment with first line scabicides has failed or is contraindicated. Mass drug administration with ivermectin for scabies has been trialled in the Northern Territory,⁴ which showed modest benefit. Globally, mass drug administration with ivermectin has been more promising and offered a sustained reduction in scabies and impetigo.⁵ Further safety data from mass drug administration trials using ivermectin in childhood and pregnancy

will help progress access to this effective scabicide.³

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