Selection of the Optimal Long-Acting Injectable Formulation of Ivermectin for use in humans to Target Malaria Vectors in Western Africa: Evaluation of Pharmacokinetics and Mosquitocidal Efficacy in Cattle under Laboratory Conditions.

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Abstract

Background: Ivermectin, a semisynthetic endectocide, is widely used against parasitic nematodes in humans and animals. Its lethality to *Anopheles* mosquitoes after feeding on treated hosts represents a promising malaria control strategy, particularly against outdoor transmission. However, standard oral formulations for use in humans produce short-lived mosquitocidal blood concentrations, limiting epidemiological impact. To meet WHO Preferred Product Characteristics (PPC) for endectocides against malaria vectors (Hazard Ratios >4 for at least one month), three long-acting injectable ivermectin formulations (LAIFs) based on BEPO® depot technology were developed and compared in cattle to identify the most suitable candidate for future human use.

Methods: A cattle–*Anopheles* model was used under laboratory conditions in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Three LAIF candidates (mdc-STM-001, mdc-STM-002, mdc-STM-003) were injected to calves (n=5 per formulation) at 0.6 mg/kg, with untreated calves as controls (n=5). Plasma ivermectin concentrations were measured over 130 days and analyzed using non-compartmental pharmacokinetics. Direct skin feeding assays were conducted at 15 timepoints (days 2–126 post-injection) using insecticide-susceptible (KIS) and wild-derived resistant (VK5) *Anopheles* colonies. Efficacy was assessed through 10-day cumulative mortalities, hazard ratios, 50% lethal concentrations (LC50), and duration of exposure above the 10-day LC50, accounting for the extrinsic incubation period of *Plasmodium falciparum*.

Results: All formulations were well tolerated. Mdc-STM-001 showed the most favorable pharmacokinetic profile, with a controlled peak concentration (Cmax = 34.5 ± 12.7 ng/mL) and the lowest inter-individual variability (12%). Ten-day hazard ratios exceeded 4 and cumulative mortalities were >50% for at least 60 days in both strains. Median mosquito lifespan remained below 10 days for at least 90 days post-injection. The 10-day LC50 for resistant mosquitoes (3.66 [2.69–4.97] ng/mL) was maintained for ≥126 days.

Conclusion: The Mdc-STM-001 was identified as the optimal candidate. A single injection induced sustained mosquitocidal efficacy for at least two months, achieving HR >4 against both susceptible and resistant *Anopheles* populations and meeting WHO PPC for malaria endectocides. Although extrapolation from cattle to humans requires caution, the favorable pharmacokinetic profile and robust entomological outcomes support progression to Phase 1 clinical trials. Ivermectin's established safety record further strengthens the rationale for clinical development.

Keywords: malaria vector control, residual transmission, *Anopheles* mosquitoes, insecticide resistance, ivermectin, long-acting injectable ivermectin, pharmacokinetics, mosquitocidal efficacy

Background

Malaria remains a leading global health concern with an estimated 263 million clinical cases and 597,000 deaths in 2023, over 95% of which occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa [1]. Significant gains in the fight against the disease have been made between 2000 and 2015 [2] mainly due to indoor residual spraying of houses and universal coverage with pyrethroid insecticide treated nets, two core vector control interventions recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) [3]. Progresses have stalled since then[4], notably coinciding with widespread, growing, resistance in *Anopheles* vectors populations, due to the huge selection pressure exerted by continuous insecticide-based interventions and massive pesticide use in agricultural practices [5]. Resistance refers to both (i) physiological resistance, involving reduced susceptibility to the insecticidal molecule through target-site mutations or metabolic detoxification processes [6], and (ii) behavioral (qualitative) resistance, as defined by Carrasco et al. [7], whereby mosquitoes avoid insecticides exposure spatially (by biting outdoors), temporally (by biting early in evening or morning when

humans are outside their nets or housing), or trophically (by feeding on non-human hosts).

New generations of Long Lasting Impregnated Nets (LLINs) incorporating dual active

ingredients or synergists [8] [9] have been recently recommended by the WHO to circumvent

pyrethroid resistance [10] . However, these tools still primarily target nocturnal, indoor-biting

Anopheles mosquitoes, and are logically bypassed by behaviorally resistant vectors [11,12].

The resurgence in malaria cases in recent years [1] highlights the urgent need for novel and

complementary strategies to reinforce existing interventions and reverse this concerning

trend. In particular, tools targeting the diverse biting behaviors of *Anopheles* vectors, whether

innate or induced by interventions, are essential for addressing this challenge [7,13].

Mass drug administration (MDA) to humans of the ivermectin endectocide is a

proposed approach to overcome limits of current malaria vector control methods [14,15].

Acting systemically, the molecule targets internal parasites as well as external blood-feeding

arthropods, including *Anopheles* malaria mosquitoes. It thus primarily reduces *Anopheles*

survival probability, the most critical determinant of their vectorial capacity [16]. Because the

insecticide is delivered through the host's bloodstream, it functions regardless spatial or

temporal mosquitoes blood-feeding adaptations. Ivermectin is the leading endectocide

candidate for vector control notably because of its strong, well established, safety profile from

nearly 4 decades of extensive clinical use in MDA campaigns against lymphatic filariasis and

onchocerciasis [17]. This safety reflects its selective action on glutamate-gated chloride

channels unique to invertebrates [18]. Such mechanism of action is distinct from those of the

different insecticide classes used in public health against malaria vectors, so ivermectin is a

potent vector control tool that could mitigate current physiological resistance issues.

All *Anopheles* species and strains tested to date have been shown to be susceptible to

ivermectin, although the degree of susceptibility varies among species [19]. Moreoever sub-

lethal effects are also interesting to transmission control as they negatively impact vectors

fecundity and fertility [20,21], locomotor and biting behaviors [22,23], or *Plasmodium*

parasite development [24,25]. Mass drug administration of ivermectin to humans may

therefore effectively reduce residual malaria transmission.

Various oral drug dose regimens have been used during Randomized Controlled Trials

(RCTs) testing ivermectin MDAs against malaria. Standard oral ivermectin dosing for

parasitic disease treatment in humans (150–200 µg/kg) achieves lethal plasma levels for

Anopheles mosquitoes for fewer than seven days [26]. In field studies from Sub-Saharan

Africa, this regimen administered every three weeks during the rainy season to populations in

southern Burkina Faso resulted in a significant 20% reduction in malaria incidence among

children under five [27]. Increased dosing regimens (1x400 and 3x300 µg/kg) prolong

ivermectin persistence in the host bloodstream and mosquitocidal efficacy up to 14-21 with

good safety [28,29]. Modeling studies have predicted that 80% coverage of the target

population using such regimen has the potential to reduce malaria incidence by 30 to 70%

depending on the transmission settings [30].

In the fields, the BOHEMIA RCT in Mozambique and Kenya applied the 1X 400

µg/kg regimen monthly for three consecutive months across the rainy season [31]. In Kenya,

this led to reduced malaria incidence in children aged 5-15 years by 26% compared to the

control arm [32]. However, in Mozambique, the same regimen failed to produce significant

reduction [33]. Two other RCTs testing the 3×300 µg/kg dose administered monthly in

combination with either dihydroartemisinin–piperaquine (DHAP) in the Galápagos Islands

(MATAMAL [34]) or seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) in Burkina Faso

(RIMDAMAL II [35]) also showed no significant epidemiological effect.

Possible explanations include biological factors related to vector populations such as poor

translation of mosquitocidal effects from laboratory studies to the field or overlooked aspects

of wild mosquito bionomics in the trial [36]. Pharmacokinetic data from the RIMDAMAL II

trial revealed also a shorter-than-expected residence time of lethal plasma ivermectin, as drug

levels dropped below detection in nearly 50% of participants by day 14 [35]. In Mozambique,

logistical challenges increased the administration rounds duration so that population coverage

never reached the threshold expected for efficacy. All trials have however demonstrated

safety of increased and repeated dosing of oral ivermectin.

Both pharmacokinetic limitations and operational challenges encountered in the fields

are intrinsic to oral dosing and highlight the need for long-acting ivermectin formulations that

can sustain mosquitocidal effects while allowing logistical flexibility.

To date, only a single human-targeted long-acting formulation has been developed a gastric-

resident oral device with approximately 14-day efficacy [37].

In this context, using the BEPO® injectable technology [38], we developed three

ivermectin LAIFs for human use in malaria endemic regions. These formulations were

designed according to the efficacy targets set by the WHO recommendations for preferred

product characteristics of endectocides in malaria vector control [39], which specify a hazard

ratio (HR) greater than 4 for mosquitoes feeding on treated hosts for at least one month post-

treatment.

We used a cattle-mosquito colony model [21,40], exposing both insecticide-

susceptible and pyrethroid-resistant *Anopheles* strains through direct skin feeding assays,

thereby assessing efficacy despite potential cross-resistance or tolerance mechanisms. Our

main objective was to compare pharmacokinetic (PK), pharmacodynamic (PD), and

mosquitocidal efficacy outcomes among the three candidate formulations to identify the

optimal one for subsequent clinical evaluation in human.

Methods

Study site

All experiments were conducted in Bobo-Dioulasso, south-western Burkina Faso, through a

collaboration between the Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS) and the Centre

International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage en zones Subhumides (CIRDES).

Both institutes have controlled insectary facilities, and CIRDES also maintains stables for

cattle husbandry.

Mosquito colonies

Two *Anopheles* mosquito colonies were used in this study:

(i)   ***Anopheles (An.) gambiae* Kisumu (KIS)**: fully susceptible to all classes of

182   insecticides and maintained in the IRSS insectaries. The colony is routinely

183   monitored for contamination by other species and screened for insecticide

184   resistance using molecular techniques [41,42]. For the experiments, mosquitoes

185   were transported in meshed cages covered with moist cloth to the Centre

186   International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage en zone Sub-humide

187   (CIRDES). Transport duration was approximately 10 minutes.

188   (ii)   ***An. coluzzii* VK5 (VK5)**: This colony was established at CIRDES in November

189   2020, prior to the start of the experiments in January 2021. A total of 150 blood-

190   fed females were collected from the village of VK5 in the Kou Valley (~50 km

191   northwest of Bobo-Dioulasso), an irrigated rice growing area where different

192   classes of pesticides are used for agriculture [43]. The use of pyrethroid

193   impregnated bed nets is high due intense mosquito nuisance. The mosquito's bio-

194   ecology is well characterized, with *An. coluzzii* representing more than 95% of

195   *Anopheles* species, and permanently found breeding in the irrigated fields. *An.*

196   *coluzzii* populations are there characterized by a high prevalence of resistance to

197   all the insecticides classes, justifying the choice of this cite to found the insecticide

resistant colony. Collected females were allowed to individually oviposit. Species

identification was performed post-oviposition by PCR using established protocols

[41] and only progeny from confirmed *An. coluzzii* were retained. As expected,

based on the collection site, all females belonged to the target species.

Both colonies were housed in similar environmental conditions and maintenance

protocol [40]. The insectaries temperature was set to 26°C ± 1°C, relative humidity to

75% ± 5%, and photoperiod to 12-hour light/dark. The VK5 colony's pyrethroid

resistance status was routinely monitored by sampling approximately 40 females per

generation and screening for the knockdown resistance West African allele (KDR-W;

L1014F) of the voltage-gated sodium channel gene using quantitative polymerase chain

reaction (qPCR) [42]. For each direct skin-feeding assay time point, females were

randomly drawn from at least five different cages to minimize potential cage effects.

Long acting ivermectin formulations

The long-acting ivermectin formulations tested in this study were developed using BEPO®

technology [38], a proprietary long-acting injectable technology (Medincell, Jacou, France).

Following subcutaneous injection, BEPO® forms an *in situ* bioresorbable polymeric depot via

a solvent-exchange mechanism, leading to precipitation of a polymer matrix that enables

sustained drug release. Each formulation consisted of three components: i) a biocompatible

solvent to ensure injectability, ii) ivermectin, as the active pharmaceutical ingredient, and iii)

a mixture of two biocompatible and biodegradable polymers that control drug release kinetics.

These polymers undergo progressive hydrolysis into bioabsorbable by-products over time,

thanks to a simple hydrolysis mechanism. Three ready-to-use LAIFs solutions were

evaluated: mdc-STM-001, mdc-STM-002 and mdc-STM-003; the last one differed in

ivermectin loading and each differed in polymer composition and proportions.

All formulations were imported into Burkina Faso with clearance from the Direction Générale

des Services Vétérinaires of Burkina Faso (Permit No 2020/199) and were stored at room

temperature, protected from light, until administration to cattle. The study protocol was

approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee of CIRDES (document reference

number: 004-10/2020 CEB-CIRDES).

Cattle hosts and treatments

Twenty-five male calves (Métis strain: Fulani zebus x Baoulé crossbreed) with a median

weight of 117 kg (interquartile range [IQR]: 106-129 kg), were purchased from villages in the

Valley du Kou area two months prior to the study to allow for acclimation. Upon arrival at the

CIRDES animal facility, calves were treated for trypanosomiasis and gastrointestinal parasites

using Berenil 2000® and Benzal®, respectively. Animals were housed outdoors under

screened enclosures to prevent exposure to or reinfestation with ectoparasites and

trypamosomoses. They were fed with rice straw and 1 kg/day of cottonseed cake, with water

and sea salt provided ad libitum.

Calves were randomly assigned to five experimental arms (n = 5 calves per arm) using

stratified randomization to balance body weight across groups. Four arms received LAIFs,

and one served as the untreated control. The formulations were administered *via* a single

subcutaneous injection into the loose skin anterior to the shoulder.

- mdc-STM-001 and mdc-STM-002 LAIFs were each injected at a unique dose of 0.6

mg/kg (referred to as mdc-STM-001-0.6 and mdc-STM-002-0.6, respectively).

- mdc-STM-003 was administered at two doses: 0.6 mg/kg and at 1.5 mg/kg (referred

to as mdc-STM-003-0.6 and mdc-STM-003-1.5).

The 1.5 mg/kg dose represents the upper limit of feasible subcutaneous volumes for

human application and was included to assess dose-dependent effects on

pharmacokinetics and mosquitocidal efficacy. Nominal injection volumes per animal

ranged from 0.62 to 2.14 mL (detailed in Table 1). The animals' identification numbers,

their weight upon arrival at CIRDES and on the day of injection, administered

formulations, and injected volumes are provided in the Additional file 1, Table S1.

Animal health was monitored throughout the study by assessing each day clinical signs,

local injection site reactions, body weight, and weight gain.

Mosquito blood-feeding bioassays

To ensure equivalent ivermectin exposure, mosquitoes from both KIS and VK5 colonies were

simultaneously exposed to the same cattle hosts during blood-feeding. This design enabled

direct comparison of susceptibility across colonies under identical conditions. Direct skin

blood-feeding assays were conducted following previously established protocols [40]. Prior to

feeding, mosquitoes were deprived of sugar for 12 hours, with access to water-soaked cotton

only. At each time point, approximately 100–130 females per colony were introduced into

net-covered bowls, and held against the shaved flank of the calf for 20 minutes using a rubber

band. Separate bowls were used for each colony. Fully engorged mosquitoes were distributed

into cups (10 females per cup), with a maximum of 120 cups per colony per time point. All

cups were maintained under controlled conditions in the CIRDES insectary. Mosquito

mortality was recorded daily between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. for 30 days post-blood meal. To

mitigate positional bias, cups were randomly repositioned on shelves after each observation.

A total of 16 blood-feeding assays were conducted: once pre-treatment (baseline) and

at 2, 7, 17, 21, 28, 42, 56, 70, 84, 91, 98, 105, 112, 119, and 126 Days After Injection (DAI).

Due to limited mosquito availability, KIS mosquitoes were not tested at 7 and 91 DAI.

Surplus blood-fed mosquitoes were stored at –20°C for downstream analyses.

Ivermectin bioanalysis and pharmacokinetics

Jugular venous blood samples were collected from treated calves at each mosquito exposure time point and at additional time-points (30 samples per animal) to characterize ivermectin pharmacokinetics (PK). Sampling included pre-dose, 2h, 5h and 12h post-injection, then daily sampling until DAI 4, every 2-4 days until DAI 21, and weekly until DAI 132-133. Blood samples were also collected from control animals at pre-dose and at DAI 1, 14, 28, 56, 84 and 111. Blood samples were centrifuged at +4°C (2000 rpm for 10 min) to isolate plasma, which was stored at -80°C until shipment for bioanalytical analysis. Ivermectin plasma concentrations were quantified using a liquid-liquid extraction with qualified LC-MS/MS methods. Two calibration ranges were used (0.2-20 ng/mL low range; 5-500 ng/mL high range), using K_2-EDTA as anticoagulant and ivermectin-D_2 as internal standard. The quality controls (0.6, 10, 16 ng/mL low range; 15, 250, 400 ng/mL high range) were within the acceptance criteria (precision $\leq$ 15.00%, deviation $\pm$ 15.00%). Incurred sample reanalysis validated ivermectin stability for at least 680 days at -20°C. Plasma samples collected from cattle were stored at -80°C no longer than 162 days before analysis, validating the ivermectin concentrations measured for PK analysis.

At study completion, control animals were returned to stock, while treated animals were euthanized. Injection sites and depot with surrounding tissues were sampled to quantify the residual ivermectin and copolymers. These analyses were performed using an ultra-performance liquid chromatography (limit of quantification: 0.9 μg/mL) for ivermectin and nuclear magnetic resonance analysis for copolymers. Both methods were developed for exploratory purposes only.

Outcomes and Analysis

296   Unless specified otherwise, analysis were performed using the R version 4.4.3 (2025-02-

297   28) [44]. Models fit were assessed using the "performance" [45] and DHARMa [46]

298   packages. All estimates are reported with 95% confidence intervals (CI95%) and/or p-values.

299
Cattle weight gain

Differences in weight gain between treatment groups throughout the study were analyzed

using the Kruskal–Wallis rank sum test, followed by pairwise two-sided exact Wilcoxon rank

sum tests with 95% confidence intervals. *p*-values were adjusted using the Holm method

([47]).

Pharmacokinetics

PK parameters of ivermectin were calculated for each LAIF using a non-compartmental

analysis (Phoenix® WinNonlin® version 8.1; Certara USA, Inc., Princeton, NJ). These

included the rate of systemic exposure (Cmax), the time to reach Cmax (Tmax), the extent of

systemic exposure over the study duration (aera under the curve, AUClast), over 28 DAI

(AUC0-28d) and over 91 DAI (AUC0-91d), concentrations at 28 DAI (C28d), 56 days

(C56d), 91 DAI (C91d) and at study end (Clast), and the apparent terminal phase half-life

(T1/2) when calculable. The systemic exposure parameters were normalized to the actual

administered dose, calculated for each cattle based on the weight of each syringe before and

after injection. The inter-individual variability in plasma concentrations and PK parameters

was expressed as the coefficient of variation (CV %) for each experimental group.

Mosquito related outcomes

Mosquito blood feeding rate

For each colony, we compared the mosquitoes' blood-feeding rates across treatment arms

using a generalized linear mixed model (GLMM, [48]) with a binomial error distribution. The

outcome variable was the number of blood-fed mosquitoes, with the total number of

mosquitoes included as an offset. The model included an interaction term between treatment

and DAI, as well as a random intercept for cattle. The model was fitted using restricted

maximum likelihood.

Times post-feeding

Efficacy outcomes are provided for 4- 10 and 30-days post mosquito blood feeding. The 4-

day period reflect the acute toxic effect, which typically manifests within 2-3 days post-

ivermectin blood meal. The 10-day post-blood feeding period is used in relation the 10-day

minimum extrinsic incubation period (EIP) needed for the parasite to develop in the mosquito

and to reach the salivary glands [49], thereby rendering it infectious and active in

transmission. The 30-day follow-up captures the residual effects of ivermectin on surviving

mosquitoes, which may include both indirect sublethal effects and potential interactions with

the mosquitoes' age. Only data related to the 10-day follow up period are presented and

thoroughly discussed in the main text. Outcomes for the 4-day and 30-day follow-up period

are given in the Additional file 2, Fig. S3 and S4.

Cumulative Mortality

Proportions of dead mosquitoes at 10-days post-feeding were computed for each colony,

formulation, and DAI.

Survival Analysis and Hazard Ratios

Daily mosquito mortality was recorded for up to 30 days post blood-feeding. For each

mosquito colony and DAI, survival data were used to generate Kaplan–Meier survival curves,

stratified by treatment group.

Per colony, survival patterns at each time-point were compared to the control group

using Cox proportional hazards models (mixed-effects regression model [50]). The models

included "treatment group" and "DAI" as fixed effects, with random intercepts for individual

calf ID and mosquito cup (nested random effects) to account for variability within treatment

groups. Hazard ratios (HR) at different time points post-blood feeding are given to assess the

impact of ivermectin on mosquito mortality risks and HR variations over time. Post hoc

pairwise comparisons of HRs between time points were adjusted for multiple testing using the

Tukey method, implemented via the "emmeans" package [44]

Dose–Response Analysis and coverage duration

Dose–response relationships were analyzed using the "drc" package in R [51], modeling 4-

day and 10-day mosquito mortality as a function of host ivermectin plasma concentrations. A

four-parameter log-logistic model was fitted with the upper limit fixed at 1. Confidence

intervals were computed using the tfls method (t from logarithm scale).

RESULTS

Cattle follow up

A mild reaction (agitation) was observed in most animals after the injection, regardless of

dose or LAIF administered (data not shown). There were no unscheduled cattle deaths, and no

clinical signs were observed in any of the treated groups throughout the study. The major

local reaction was swelling, which occurred in all animals, as expected with this LAIF

technology. Median weight gain throughout the study (i.e. 4 months) was unaffected by the

test item treatment (Kruskal-Wallis test, χ^2= 8.4892, df = 4, p-value = 0.075, Table 2). For

each experimental group, monthly weight measures are given in the Additional file 1, Table

S2.

Ivermectin pharmacokinetics

A total of 635 blood samples were collected, including 600 samples from LAIF-treated cattle

(4 treatment groups, 5 cattle per group, n=30 per cattle) and 35 samples from control cattle (1

control group, 5 cattle, n=7 per cattle). Concentration-time patterns were analyzed using data

until DAI = 132 for mdc-STM-001-0.6, mdc-STM-002-0.6 and DAI 133 for mdc-STM-003-

0.6 and mdc-STM-003-1.5. Ivermectin plasma concentrations were analyzed according to the

treatment (formulation and dose). Individual concentration-time profiles of ivermectin after

LAIFs injection are illustrated in Figure 1. The mean concentration-time profiles over the

study duration and for the first 7 days only to better visualize the burst (i.e., peak plasma

level), are provided in the Additional file 2: Fig. S1.

Ivermectin was not detected in any of the samples collected in the control group

during the study period nor in any samples collected before ivermectin injection in the treated

groups. Following sub-cutaneous injection, ivermectin plasma concentrations were generally

measured in all samples collected during the study, with quantifiable levels still present at the

final study time-point (*i.e.,* DAI 132 or 133).

After a single sub-cutaneous administration of LAIFs, the plasma levels of ivermectin

increased to reach the maximal level (*i.e.,* the burst), known to occur with LAIs [38]) at 24h

or 48h post-dose (median Tmax). This was followed by two phases of decrease: a first phase

until Day 56 (*i.e.,* 1344h post dose) then a slower phase with a regular decrease of ivermectin

plasma levels until the study end. Among the formulations, mdc-STM-001-0.6 showed the

lowest rate of decrease during the first phase and the steadiest levels during the second phase.

In contrast, the mdc-STM-002-0.6 exhibited the fastest decrease compared to other LAIFs.

The inter-animal variability in ivermectin plasma levels (expressed as coefficient of variation

CV%) was moderate. The lowest variability was seen with mdc-STM-001-0.6 (mean CV%:

41%, range: 12-70%), followed by mdc-STM-003-1.5 (mean: 54%, range: 22-87). The

highest variability was observed for mdc-STM-002-0.6 (mean CV%: 62%, range: 25-106%)

and mdc-STM-003-0.6 (mean: 72%, range: 34-98%).

The mean ivermectin PK parameters of each LAIF after injection are reported in Table

3. Additional parameters are given in the Additional file 1: Table S3.

At a dose of 0.6 mg/kg, PK differences emerged across formulations when considering

both the entire study duration or the 91-day period (*i.e.,* 3 months post-injection), which is the

best targeted release duration. These differences involved performance, quantification levels

over time, and inter-animal variability. The peak plasma concentration (Cmax) for mdc-STM-

001-0.6 was at least 30% lower compared to the other LAIFs, with mdc-STM-003-0.6

showing the highest Cmax. This suggests that mdc-STM-001-0.6 provided a safer burst

compared to the other LAIFs. The inter-animal variability in Cmax was moderate for all

formulations, with the lowest variability observed for mdc-STM-002-0.6 (CV% = 27%)

followed by mdc-STM-001-0.6 (CV%=36%) and mdc-STM-003-0.6 (CV%=43%). The

overall systemic exposure over DAI 91 (AUC_{0-91d}) was quite similar for all formulations, with

the lowest value for mdc-STM-002-0.6 and the highest value for mdc-STM-003-0.6. Inter-

animal variability in AUC was much lower for mdc-STM-001-0.6 (CV% = 12%), compared

to mdc-STM-002-0.6 (CV% = 42%) and mdc-STM-003-0.6 (CV = 66%). The mean

ivermectin plasma concentrations after each month post sub-cutaneous injection (C28d, C56d,

C91d, Clast) decreased slowly until the end of the study for all formulations, remaining close

to or above 3.5 ng/mL for mdc-STM-001-0.6 and mdc-STM-003-0.6, and around 1 ng/mL for

mdc-STM-002-0.6. There was moderate to high inter-animal variability, ranging from 53%

for mdc-STM-001-0.6 to 92% for mdc-STM-003-0.6. Additionally, the ratio of Cmax to the

level measured after each month (C28d, C56d, C91d) was up to 2-fold lower for mdc-STM-

001-0.6 compared to other LAIFs at the dose of 0.6 mg/kg.

For mdc-STM-003, both tested doses (0.6 and 1.5 mg/kg) exhibited a hypo-

proportional increase in Cmax and AUC, approximately 40% less than proportionality.

However, these findings should be considered cautiously due to the high inter-animal

variability observed, particularly at the low dose (Table 3 and Additional file1: Table S2).

Because the second phase of the PK profile was relatively flat, the apparent terminal

phase half-life (T1/2) was accurately estimated for only some animals, with a mean T1/2

ranging from 20 days for mdc-STM-003-1.5 to 33 days for mdc-STM-001-0.6. The remaining

amounts of ivermectin depot and copolymers were the lowest in animals treated with the mdc-

STM-001-0.6 formulation (Additional file tables S4 and S5).

Mosquitocidal activity evaluation

Knock-down resistance allele (KDR-W) status of the VK5 mosquito lots

Generations F2 to F8 of the VK5 colony were used in this experiment. Mosquito batches

exposed at DAI 2, 7, 17, 21, 28, and 42 consisted of 74–80% individuals exhibiting

pyrethroid-resistant phenotypes (i.e., homozygous or heterozygous for the KDR-W allele of

the voltage-gated sodium channel gene [42]). The remaining batches (exposed at DAI 56, 70,

84, 91, 98, 105, 112, 119 and 126) contained 50–54% resistant mosquitoes. Detailed qPCR

results by generation and DAI are given in Supplementary table S6.

Blood feeding rate

High blood-feeding rates were consistently observed across all time points for both KIS and

VK5 colonies (Table 4). No statistically significant differences in feeding success were

observed between treatment groups or formulations at any time point (data not shown),

indicating uniform host attractiveness and feeding opportunity across experimental

conditions.

Efficacy outcomes

The total number of mosquitoes monitored for survival by colony and treatment group is

presented in Table 5. Their detailed distribution by individual cattle, cup, and day after

injection (DAI) is provided in Supplementary Tables 6A (KIS) and 6B (VK5). Due to limited

availability of KIS mosquitoes, no feeding assays were conducted at DAI 7 and DAI 28.

Mosquito husbandry issues affected the same colony at DAI 105 and DAI 119; these data

points were excluded from the analysis. Unexpected high mortality rates during the first 4

days post blood feeding (> 0.20) were detected for KIS mosquitoes fed on the control cattle

B328 at DAI 42 (mortality rate = 0.437) and B321 at DAI 112 (mortality rate = 0.21).

Therefore, these mosquito lots were excluded from efficacy analyses.

Mortality rates

The mdc-STM-001-0.6 showed the highest efficacy against KIS mosquitoes,

comparable to mdc-STM-003-1.5 (Figure 2). From DAI 2 to approximately DAI 100, over

75% of KIS mosquitoes died within 10 days after feeding cattle treated with mdc-STM-001-

0.6, and mortality rates remained above 50% beyond this period. For VK5 mosquitoes, mdc-

STM-001-0.6 maintained ≥50% mortality between DAI 2 and 80, whereas other formulations

at the dose of 0.6 mg/kg were less effective. The high-dose mdc-STM-003-1.5 achieved the

longest duration of efficacy for VK5 mosquitoes, with mortality rates >50% from DAI 2 to

110.

Among all formulations, mdc-STM-001-0.6 exhibited the most consistent efficacy

profile. Mosquito mortality data for this LAIF showed the lowest inter-animal variability,

with fewer deviations from the mean trend across all sampling points.

Survival and Hazard Ratios

No significant differences in mosquito survival were observed across treatment groups prior

to LAIF administration for either KIS or VK5 colonies (Figure 3, Additional file 1: Table S8,

Additional file 2: Fig. S2 and S3), confirming no confounding effects from host variability.

Following treatment, all formulations administered at the dose of 0.6 mg/kg (mdc-STM-001,

mdc-STM-002, mdc-STM-003) and at 1.5 mg/kg (mdc-STM-003) induced a significant

mosquitocidal effect. The magnitude and duration of these effects varied according to

mosquito strain and formulation but remained statistically significant through the full follow-

up period (DAI 126).

The mdc-STM-002-0.6 formulation was clearly the least effective, with HRs $\geq$ 4 for

the shortest duration regardless of colony (Figure 3). It was therefore excluded from further

efficacy comparisons.

The mdc-STM-001-0.6 formulation induced sustained 10-days HR $\geq$ 4 through 70

days post-dose for both KIS and VK5 strains. The mdc-STM-003-06 display less sustained

efficacy, with HRs being superior to 4 at DAI 42 for both KIS and VK5 strains. The higher-

dose of the mdc-STM-003-1.5 showed a similar pattern to mdc-STM-001-0.6, with the

benefit of 10-day HRs >4 at an additional time point for KIS colony (DAI = 112).

Median survival times

Median survival times were consistently greater than 10 days for KIS and VK5 mosquitoes

fed on control calves (Figure 4) for all the DAI tested.

For KIS mosquitoes, median survival times remained consistently below 10 days

throughout the entire follow-up when fed on cattle treated with mdc-STM-001-0.6, mdc-

STM-003-0.6 and mdc-STM-003-1.5. In contrast, mdc-STM-002-0.6, induced median

survival times equal to or greater than the 10-day threshold from DAI 70 onward.

For VK5 mosquitoes, median survival times remained ≤ 10 days up to 91 days post-treatment,

and again at DAI 126, when exposed to cattle treated with mdc-STM-001-0.6, mdc-STM-

003-0.6, and mdc-STM-003-1.5 (Figure 4). The LAIF mdc-STM-002-0.6 maintained median

survival times below or equal to the EIP threshold for only 40 days post-dose.

Notably, mdc-STM-001-0.6 and mdc-STM-003-1.5 induced particularly short survival

durations, with median survival times <4 days for nearly 100 days in KIS mosquitoes and

approximately 60 days in VK5.

Lethal concentrations and coverage duration

Concentration/response relationships were examined for each colony and for each LAIF. No

significant differences in LC50 values were found between LAIFs, regardless of the mosquito

colony (Additional file 1: Tables S9–S12; Additional file 2: Fig. S4 and S5). A unified

concentration–response model, including mosquito colony as explanatory variable was thus

developed using the full dataset (Figure 5).

A significant difference in cumulative mortalities between KIS and VK5 was observed

in relation to ivermectin concentrations, with 10-day LC50 values lower for KIS than for VK5

(mean LC50 (95% CI) for KIS = 1.51 [1.1-2.07], for VK5 = 3.66 [2.69-4.97], t-value = -

6.3187, *P*-value < 0.0001). Ten-day LC50 values sufficient to kill KIS and VK5 mosquitoes

are sustained for the whole experiment duration for KIS and for more than 2 months for VK5,

except for the mdc-STM-002 formulation (table 6). Values for 4-day and 10-day LC50 and

LC90 are given in the Additional file1: Table S13.

Inter-animal variability was also assessed, as it directly informs the coverage potential

of each formulation, *i.e.* the proportion of treated animals maintaining mosquitocidal

ivermectin plasma concentrations above the LC50 over time. The mdc-STM-001-0.6 achieved

100% coverage of VK5 10-day LC50 for a duration of at least 2 months post-dose (data not

shown).

Discussion

This study represents the first evaluation of candidate long-acting injectable formulations of

ivermectin specifically developed for human use in malaria control. These formulations are

issued from unique long lasting delivery technology and are designed to meet, with a single

subcutaneous injection, the World Health Organization's minimum target product profile for

endectocides against malaria: achieving, with a single administration, at least one month of

efficacy, defined by HR > 4 for *Plasmodium* vectors survival. The primary objective of this

work was to identify the most promising formulation for further development, including

progression to Phase 1 clinical trial. To guide formulation selection, we employed a

comprehensive approach integrating multiple, complementary criteria related to

mosquitocidal efficacy, pharmacokinetic characteristics, and inter-host variability, all critical

for achieving effective and sustained vector control in real-world conditions and settings. The

mdc-STM-001 formulation met all the predefined criteria and was selected as the optimal

candidate for further evaluation in humans, based on the following key positive outcomes: i)

good local and systemic tolerability during and after injection, with no abnormal variation in

body weight; ii) optimal control of the initial burst, preventing systemic reactions during the

early post-injection period; iii) most suitable ivermectin PK and PD profiles, achieving LC50

levels over the target duration, resulting in the highest sustained mosquito mortality across

both insecticide susceptible and resistant *Anopheles* strains; iv) the lowest inter-host

variability in ivermectin exposure; v) appropriate clearance beyond the predefined release

duration, avoiding unnecessary systemic exposure.

In both magnitude and duration, the mosquitocidal efficacy of a single subcutaneous

injection of the mdc-STM-001 formulation is compelling. It provides efficacy durations of at

least 2 months, at least four times longer than those achieved with either gastric-resident or

conventional oral formulations, regardless of the dosing regimen considered. A sustained

reduction in mosquito survival rate lasting over two months is the factor expected to most

strongly and negatively influence vectorial capacity [52]. Furthermore, by consistently

shortening mosquito lifespan below the 10-day EIP, the mdc-STM-001 formulation has strong

potential to dramatically reduce the proportion of infectious mosquitoes, and therefore malaria

transmission, across most epidemiological contexts.

Strengths and limitations of the experimental model for extrapolation to humans

We acknowledge the limitation of extrapolating human pharmacokinetic and

pharmacodynamic parameters from data obtained following cattle treatment with the MDC-

STM-001, as plasma concentration dynamics can vary substantially across species [53].

Because ivermectin is a highly lipophilic compound, body fat content, which also varies

among species, represents a key determinant of its distribution within the organism [26].

Ivermectin tends to accumulate in adipose and dermal tissues surrounding capillaries [54]

from which mosquitoes obtain their blood meals. This may potentially lead to higher

ivermectin concentrations being ingested by mosquitoes than those measured in venous

plasma and used for PK/PD analysis [55]. Indeed, a clinical study reported ivermectin

concentrations to be approximately 1.33-fold higher in capillary than in venous blood [56]

even though this difference did not translate into measurable differences in mosquito

mortality. In addition, cattle-derived secondary metabolites may also modulate the

mosquitocidal effects of long-acting formulations, as has been suggested in humans [57] with

possible species-specific differences in both the nature and kinetics of these metabolites

(manuscript in preparation). For all the above reasons valid whatever the route of

administration of ivermectin, extrapolation of PK and PD data from cattle to humans must be

approached with caution and venous plasma ivermectin concentrations should be regarded

only as proxies for the actual levels of ivermectin and its metabolites ingested by mosquitoes.

Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that in a phase 1 human trial using oral ivermectin, the venous

plasma 10-day LC_{50} values lethal to *An. gambiae s.s.* fell within the same range as those

obtained in the present study [26,58].

Although our experimental cattle model, like any preclinical animal system, is subject

to criticism regarding pharmacokinetic extrapolations to humans, it was deliberately selected

to capture field relevant *Anopheles gambiae s.l.* fitness and ivermectin mosquitocidal effects

since we used mosquito lots derived from a recently founded colony from Bobo Dioulasso

surroundings. Indeed, throughout the Sudano-Sahelian zone, *Anopheles* mosquitoes

frequently feed on domestic animals, particularly calves, which represent major blood-meal

sources in areas of high bed net use [59,60]. Mosquitoes feeding on calves exhibit survival

rates and median lifespans comparable to those feeding on human [61], reinforcing the

biological relevance of this model. In addition, direct skin-feeding experiments on Burkinabé

local calves are highly practical and result in consistently high feeding success, as these

animals are natural alternative hosts for major malaria vectors. Our model therefore allows to

maximize the proportion of blood-fed mosquitoes and to reflect their true post-feeding

survival potential after feeding on treated or control hosts. Collectively, these parameters

provide robust and field transposable meaningful entomological endpoints that are essential

for predicting the performance of the long-acting ivermectin formulation in real settings.

Mosquito resistance to ivermectin and mitigation plans

Resistance to ivermectin exists in different arthropods species [62,63]. Equally to oral formulation multiple dosing regimen, prolonged systemic exposure to ivermectin following treatment with the LAIF may exert selective pressure on resistance mechanisms, not only on its intended targets, human endoparasites, but also on *Anopheles* mosquitoes and other ectoparasites. Pyrethroids and ivermectin cross-resistance has been shown in permethrin resistant *Aedes aegypti* colonies [64]. Given the distinct molecular targets of these two compound classes, the role of metabolic resistance pathways has been hypothesized. These mechanisms often involve the overexpression of detoxification enzymes such as cytochrome P450s and xenobiotic efflux pumps [65,66]. Supporting this, dual inhibition of P450s and xenobiotic transporters was found to significantly increase ivermectin susceptibility in *An. gambiae*, highlighting detoxification pathways as a credible resistance route [67]. Ivermectin resistance in *Anopheles gambiae* could also arise due to existing alternative splicing of the gene coding for the GluCl channel, producing protein variants with differing sensitivities to ivermectin [68], which suggests that regulatory changes in splicing may contribute to reduced susceptibility.

Our findings reveal clear differences in ivermectin susceptibility between mosquito strains: the VK5 colony from *An. coluzzii* required higher plasma lethal concentrations than the fully susceptible *An. gambiae* KIS strain, suggesting the presence of tolerance mechanisms in VK5. Differences in susceptibility to ivermectin has been already shown among different *Anopheles* species [22,69,70]. In this study, we monitored the frequency of pyrethroid-resistance alleles in the VK5 mosquitoes lots, which was high throughout the experiment; however, further individual-level characterization will be needed to determine whether a direct association, if any, exists between pyrethroid-resistance genotypes and ivermectin tolerance in VK5. Beyond metabolic processes, factors such as distinct genetic

backgrounds or morphological traits such as body size, may contribute to an intertwined

tolerance phenotype in which multiple mechanisms interact, making it difficult to disentangle

their respective roles.

The risk of selecting ivermectin resistant *Anopheles* populations during mass treatments

campaigns does indeed exist, and could compromise sustained success of ivermectin-based

malaria vector control strategies. In addition to physiological resistance, behavioral

adaptations may further reduce the effectiveness of such interventions. Prolonged ivermectin

exposure could also select for more zoophagic or opportunistic mosquito populations that

preferentially feed on untreated animals or humans, thereby circumventing the drug's effects

and diminishing overall intervention impact. Nonetheless, current MDA protocols for

ivermectin include exclusion criteria that prevent treatment of pregnant or lactating women

and children under 15 kg. Women of child bearing potential might further be excluded in case

long-acting formulation deployment. These untreated subpopulations can act as genetic

refuges, reservoirs of susceptible genotypes, which help maintain genetic diversity in vector

and parasite populations and reduce the overall selection pressure for resistance [40,71,72].

Such refuges could contribute to the long-term sustainability of ivermectin-based

interventions.

To preserve efficacy, it is critical that implementation strategies incorporate routine

surveillance of both behavioral and physiological resistance [71]. However, there is currently

no established and standardized assay for detecting ivermectin resistance in mosquitoes.

While molecular markers will be instrumental in tracking the emergence and spread of

resistance alleles, complementary phenotypic assays are urgently needed to detect functional

resistance in the field. Traditional phenotypic methods rely on mosquitoes ingesting

ivermectin via membrane feeding or direct feeding on treated hosts. These approaches,

however, face practical limitations, membrane feeding often results in low blood uptake by

mosquitoes, and direct feeding raises ethical concerns. A promising alternative involves

delivering ivermectin-laced blood using filter papers [73].

Coverage of blood sources

The residence time of ivermectin at efficient mosquitocidal concentrations in human blood is

the principal determinant of its epidemiological impact, together with the proportion of the

population exposed at such concentrations [74]. This has been demonstrated using modeling

studies [30,75]. The target population for standard oral ivermectin administration excludes

pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children weighing under 15 kg [76,77], whereas the

prolonged duration of action of mdc-STM-001 may also necessitate excluding women of

childbearing potential to avoid fetal exposure. This would markedly reduce the target

population size and could therefore limit overall effectiveness. However, using simulated data

from theoretical formulations with constant efficacy durations of 14 to 90 days, models

demonstrate that, combined with SMC, longer lasting effects could lead to significant

decrease in malaria burden despite the reduced target population [78]. Further mathematical

modeling, building on previous work [79], is ongoing using the present data to explore the

potential of mdc-STM-001 under different implementation scenarios [80].

The specific safety concern regarding the inclusion of women of childbearing

potential, primarily related to possible fetal toxicity, is debated [81], as is the inclusion of

children weighing less than 15 kg [82]. Addressing these important matters will enable

accurate projections for future study designs and implementation strategies.

As already mentioned above, the effectiveness of long-acting ivermectin interventions

will strongly depend on achieving sufficient coverage of the blood sources available to

Anopheles mosquitoes, both human and animal. Detailed knowledge of mosquito bionomics

within potential implementation zones is therefore critical to success [36], particularly since

large regions of high malaria burden correspond to the Sudano-Sahelian belt, where vectors are highly opportunistic in their feeding behaviour and often use domestic animals as alternative blood sources [59,60]. In such settings, treating livestock with endectocidal compounds has been proposed as a promising complementary strategy [83]. Commercial veterinary injectable formulations have demonstrated efficacy during up to 1-2 months against Asian vectors in buffalo and cattle, respectively [69]. A veterinary prototype long-lasting formulation from the BEPO® technology extended this efficacy over 6 months for *An. coluzzii* [40], while silicone implants achieved comparable results [84]. Beyond enhancing impact on vector populations, targeting both human and animal hosts could also contribute to mitigating the risk of ivermectin resistance if a distinct endectocide were used in animals.

Acceptability and adherence

The deployment of a long-acting injectable ivermectin formulation for malaria vector control would represent an innovative addition to the portfolio of community-based malaria interventions. Like other public health strategies relying on high population coverage, such as vaccination programs, anti-helminthic MDAs, or malaria vector control campaigns, its success will depend on strong acceptability and adherence. Conceptually aligned with transmission-blocking vaccines (TBVs), the LAIF acts primarily through community protection. Regarding the molecule, evidence from decades of oral ivermectin MDAs for filarial control demonstrates high community acceptability, often above 90%, although adherence tends to vary across rounds [85]. The same trend is observed when ivermectin is proposed as a vector control tool against malaria [86]. Similarly, the 4 dose injectable vaccine RTS,S/AS01 have achieved strong community acceptance (80–95%) when supported by effective communication and community engagement [87,88]. Acceptability studies for TBV concepts have also reported willingness- to-receive rates above 90% in high-burden settings [89]. For the long-acting injectable ivermectin formulation, the anticipated subcutaneous

injection volumes (up to a maximum of 25 µL/kg) is relatively small, suggesting minimal

practical or acceptability constraints for large-scale implementation. Importantly, unlike

TBVs, an LAIF ivermectin intervention could also provide direct individual health benefits by

preventing or treating parasitic infections traditionally controlled by ivermectin, while

simultaneously reducing malaria transmission. Additional collateral benefits from ivermectin

MDAs against malaria have recently been reported, including reductions in childhood anemia

[35] and decreases in jigger infestations and bedbug nuisances [90]. This dual individual and

community benefit may substantially enhance perceived value, acceptability, and adherence

compared to TBVs. By combining infrequent dosing, a familiar and trusted product with a

well-known safety profile [91], and a clear community rationale, ivermectin MDA using

LAIF could become a socially acceptable and operationally feasible complement to existing

malaria control and vaccination platforms. Furthermore, such strategy could leverage the

logistical infrastructure and community trust established through vaccination programs,

facilitating delivery, adherence monitoring, and social acceptance.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that among the three long-acting injectable ivermectin formulations

developed for human use, the mdc-STM-001 formulation exhibits the most favorable

combination of pharmacokinetic properties, pharmacodynamic efficacy, and tolerability in a

cattle-mosquito model. A single subcutaneous administration of mdc-STM-001 achieved

sustained mosquitocidal concentrations over two months, inducing high mortality in both

pyrethroid-susceptible and -resistant *Anopheles* strains, thereby meeting and exceeding the

WHO-defined minimum criteria for endectocides targeting malaria vectors. These findings

support the potential of mdc-STM-001 as a promising tool to complement existing vector

control strategies, particularly in areas with behavioral or physiological resistance to

conventional insecticides. While extrapolation from cattle to humans warrants caution, the

observed pharmacological profile and robust entomological endpoints provide a strong

rationale for advancing this formulation into Phase 1 clinical trials. Safety will remain a key

consideration given the long-lasting systemic exposure; although the multiple administrations

of high oral dose are safe which is supporting a favorable risk–benefit perspective for further

human evaluation. The formulation will also retain the positive collateral benefits observed

with oral ivermectin, such as reductions in parasitic infections, childhood anemia, and

ectoparasite nuisances, underscoring the value of mdc-STM-001 as both a community- and

individual-level intervention, potentially further enhancing community acceptability and

adherence. Future investigations should leverage modeling approaches to optimize dosing

regimens and explore synergistic integration with other vector control strategies, including

seasonal malaria chemoprevention, long-lasting insecticidal nets, indoor residual spraying, or

livestock-targeted endectocide interventions. Such models will also help anticipate the

population coverage and logistical requirements needed to maximize epidemiological impact

while ensuring operational feasibility. Given the potential for physiological or behavioral

resistance to emerge, continued studies on mitigating resistance dynamics in vector

populations will be essential to ensure sustainable efficacy. Overall, ivermectin MDA using

the mdc-STM-001 long-acting injectable formulation based on BEPO® technology represents

a potentially transformative adjunct to existing malaria control measures, with the capacity to

reduce transmission by targeting both indoor- and outdoor-biting vectors over extended

periods.

Supplementary information

Additional Tables. Additional file 1: **Table S1.** Injected volumes (mL) per animal and per

formulation. **Table S2.** Median weight (Q1, Q3) in kg for each experimental cattle group at

each weighing date. **Table S3**. Additional Mean (SD) pharmacokinetic parameters of ivermectin in cattle plasma. **Table S4**. Ivermectin extraction results in each depot collected at study end. **Table S5.** Copolymers extraction results in each depot collected at study end. **Table S6.** Number of mosquitoes homozygous or heterozygous for the mutated KDR-W allele. Tables S7A and S7B. Number of KIS (A) and VK5 (B) blood fed mosquitoes followed for their survival throughout the experiment. **Tables S8.** Hazard ratios (HRs), z-values, and associated p-values derived from the Cox proportional hazards models for KIS and VK5 mosquitoes. **Tables S9-S12**: between formulations comparisons of lethal concentrations. **Table S13.** Lethal concentration (LC50) for KIS and VK5 mosquitoes over 4-day follow up period (4-day LC50).

Additional Figures. Additional file 2: **Fig. S1.** Additional mean concentration–time profiles of ivermectin in cattle plasma. **Fig. S2.** Kaplan-Meier plots. **Fig. S3.** 4-day cumulative mortality of KIS and VK5. **Fig. S4.** Heat maps illustrating the lower 95% confidence limit (LCL) of 4-day and 30-day mortality hazard ratios (HRs) for KIS and VK5 colony mosquitoes. **Fig. S5.** Relationship between ivermectin plasma concentration and 4-days (A and B) or 10-day (C and D) cumulative mortality for each candidate formulation. Fig. S6. Relationship between ivermectin plasma concentrations and 4-day cumulative mosquito mortality for KIS and VK5 colonies.

Abbreviations

CIRDES: Centre international de recherche-développement sur l'élevage en zones subhumides; DAI: Day after injection; IRSS: Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé; K2-EDTA: Dipotassium Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; KDR: Knock Down Resistance; LAIF: Long acting ivermectin formulation; LC: Lethal concentration; LC-MS/MS: Liquid Chromatography – Tandem Mass Spectrometry; MDA: Mass drug administration; PD:

Pharmacodynamic; PK: Pharmacokinetic; qPCR: Quantitative polymerase chain reaction;

RCT: Randomized controlled trial; SMC: Seasonal malaria chemoprevention; TBV:

Transmission blocking vaccines; WHO: World health organization

Declarations

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Availability of data and material

The datasets and code used for the analyses and figure generation reported in this study are

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Authors' contribution

LZ: Investigation, preliminary statistical analysis, writing original draft. SHP, KM, NM, CP,

KRD, SLD: Methodology and protocol design. SHP: Supervision and coordination of

experimental work at CIRDES, conceptualisation. COW: Investigation, editing. AFS:

Supervision of COW, editing. AS: Molecular biology coordination and writing, editing. AP:

Formal analysis, data curation, and validation. SB: Visualization. SLD: Pharmacokinetic

coordination, writing, and review. KM: Supervision, conceptualization, funding acquisition,

administrative management, and writing, review and editing. CR: Conceptualization and

funding acquisition. AMGB: Supervision and mentoring of LZ (thesis director). G-KD:

Resources and administrative management. All authors read and approved the final

manuscript.

Ethics approval

This study is part of IMPACT project that got approval from the CIRDES ethics committee

under letter no. 004-10/2020 CEB-CIRDES. The study involving animals has been conducted

ethically following the governance of animal care and use for scientific purposes in Africa

and the Middle East [92].

Consent for publication

Not applicable

Competing interests

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1125 **Figures**

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1128 Figure 1: Individual kinetic profiles of ivermectin in cattle plasma after single sub-cutaneous

1129 administration of candidate long acting ivermectin formulations (LAIFs) at 0.6 or 1.5 mg/kg

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Figure 2. Ten-day cumulative mortality rates of KIS and VK5 mosquitoes fed at different

days after injection (DAI) on control or treated cattle. Treated cattle received a single LAIF

injection at a dose of 0.6mg/kg for the mdc-STM-001, mdc-STM-002, mdc-STM-003

1136 formulations, and at an additional dose of 1.5 mg/kg for the mdc-STM-003. The smooth line

1137 represents mean values estimated by the LOESS (locally estimated scatterplot smoothing)

1138 method and grey area shows CI95% [44]. Results for the 4-day cumulative mortalities are

1139 shown in the Additional file1: Fig. S3.

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Figure 3: Heat maps illustrating the lower 95% confidence limit (LCL) of 10-day mortality

hazard ratios (HRs) for KIS and VK5 colony mosquitoes fed at different DAIs on cattle

treated with the formulations mdc-STM-001-0.6, mdc-STM-002-0.6, mdc-STM-003-0.6 or

mdc-STM-003-1.5. HR and *P-values* for each DAI are available in Additional file 1: table S7.

BI is the timepoint before injection. Results for 4- and 30-day HRs are given in the Additional

file 1: Fig. S4.

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Figure 4: Median survival times of mosquitoes from both KIS and VK5 colonies fed at

different days after injection of the LAIFs mdc-STM-001-0.6, mdc-STM-002-0.6, mdc-STM-

003-06 and mdc-STM-003-1.5. The dashed horizontal line represents the average extrinsic

incubation period (EIP) for *Plasmodium falciparum*. The dashed vertical lines represent 2-

and 3-months post injections. Dots represent median values, +/- 95% CI are given.

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1159   Figure 5. Relationship between ivermectin plasma concentrations and 10-day cumulative

1160   mosquito mortality for KIS and VK5 colonies. Data for 4-day cumulative mortality are shown

1161   in the Additional file 2: Fig. S6.

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Tables

Table 1: Nominal treatment volumes per formulation and dose to be administered to cattle.

N/A: not applicable.

Number of cattle	LAIF	Ivermectin dose (mg/kg)	Nominal volume (µL/kg)
5	mdc-STM-001	0.6	7.72
5	mdc-STM-002	0.6	7.80
5	mdc-STM-003	0.6	5.85
5	mdc-STM-003	1.5	14.6
5	N/A (control)	0	0

Table 2: Median cattle weight gain per treatment group with interquartile range (IQR).

	Control	mdc-STM-001-0.6	mdc-STM-002-0.6	mdc-STM-003-0.6	mdc-STM-003-1.5
Weight gain (kg) Median (Q1-Q3)	27.4 (25.8- 31.6)	37.2 (35.8-44.2)	39.6 (36.6-41.6)	35.3 (31.2- 36.2)	30.0 (28.6-40.0)

Table 3: Non compartmental pharmacokinetic parameters of ivermectin in cattle plasma after single sub-cutaneous administration of the different long acting ivermectin formulations (LAIFs) at a dose of 0.6 (mdc-STM-001, mdc-STM-002, mdc-STM-003) or 1.5 mg/kg (mdc-STM-003). For each parameter, values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD).

Tmax: time to reach Cmax. Cmax: maximal plasma concentration. Clast: last quantifiable plasma concentration. AUC(0-28d): area under curve from time 0 to 28 days. AUC(0-28d)/Dose: dose-normalized AUC(0-28d). AUC(0-91d): area under curve from time 0 to 91

1187 days. AUC(0-91d)/Dose: dose-normalized AUC(0-91d). C28d: plasma concentration 28 days

1188 post injection. C56d: plasma concentration 56 days post injection. C91d: plasma

1189 concentration 91 days post injection.

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Parameters	mdc-STM-001-0.6	mdc-STM-002-0.6	mdc-STM-003-0.6	mdc-STM-003-1.5
Tmax [a] (h)	24 (24; 48)	48 (24; 168)	24 (24; 48)	24 (24; 168)
Cmax (ng/mL)	35.40 ±12.70	50.30 ± 13.70	58.10 ± 25.20	81.20 ± 32.20
Cmax/Dose (ng/mL/mg/kg)	58.30 ± 22.00	84.30 ± 22.60	99.40 ± 42.20	56.10 ± 22.40
Clast (ng/mL)	3.93 ± 2.75	1.03 ± 0.70	3.43 ± 2.74	6.30 ± 4.35
AUC(0-91d) (h.ng/mL)	25055± 2936	21121 ± 8866	28890 ± 18668	41820 ± 13286
AUC(0-91d)/Dose (h.ng/mL/mg/kg)	40990 ± 5664	35479 ± 14839	49483 ± 31994	28903 ± 9300
C28d (ng/mL)	13.70 ± 1.60	8.90 ± 4.85	11.10 ± 8.30	15.50 ± 5.10
C56d (ng/mL)	6.70 ± 1.67	2.92 ± 2.63	7.34 ± 7.14	10.30 ± 6.90
C91d (ng/mL)	3.48 ± 1.85	1.11 ± 0.84	4.33 ± 3.99	5.55 ± 3.72

1191 [a] Median (min; max).

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1196 Table 4: Blood-feeding rates of KIS and VK5 mosquitoes allowed to feed on cattle from the

1197 different treatment groups. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of fed mosquitoes out of

1198 the total exposed.

	Control	mdc-STM-001-0.6	mdc-STM-002-0.6	mdc-STM-003-0.6	mdc-STM-003-1.5	Total
KIS	0.900 (3908/4341)	0.921 (4128/4481)	0.897 (4206/4487)	0.892 (4080/4572)	0.831 (3675/4421)	0.889 (19817/22302)

VK5	0.966 (5047/5224)	0.945 (5005/5295)	0.935 (5091/5447)	0.961 (5160/5371)	0.968 (5174/5343)	0.955 (25477/26680)

Table 5. Number of KIS and VK5 mosquitoes followed for survival experiments for each treatment group

	KIS	VK5
Control	1,926	3,161
mdc-STM-001-0.6	2,122	3,206
mdc-STM-002-0.6	2,123	3,186
mdc-STM-003-0.6	2,135	3,207
mdc-STM-003-1.5	2,093	3,182
Total	10,399	15,942

Table 6: Time period during which the LAIF candidates reach ivermectin plasma concentration values above or equal to 10-day LC50 for KIS and VK5 colonies. Upper and lower confidence intervals (95%) are given in brackets.

LAIF	KIS	VK5
mdc-STM-001-0.6	132 [132-132]	132 [67-132]
mdc-STM-002-0.6	73 [65-119]	50 [39-58]
mdc-STM-003-0.6	132 [132-132]	128 [78-132]
mdc-STM-003-1.5	132 [132-132]	132 [132-132]

Supplementary tables

1218   Supplementary Table S1. Injected volumes (mL) per animal and per formulation, given the

1219   body weight (BW) measured the day of the treatment (kg)

1220

Animal ID	BW at arrival (kg)	BW at injection (kg)	Formulation ID	Injected volume (mL)
B122	141.6	153.4	mdc-STM-001	1.18
B126	116.8	140.2	mdc-STM-001	1.08
B128	109.4	119.8	mdc-STM-001	0.92
B332	119.0	126.6	mdc-STM-001	0.98
B335	99.2	115.2	mdc-STM-001	0.89
B121	107.2	120.8	mdc-STM-002	0.94
B130	128.8	137.6	mdc-STM-002	1.07
B324	97.4	115.2	mdc-STM-002	0.90
B330	138.0	144.6	mdc-STM-002	1.13
B334	142.0	151.4	mdc-STM-002	1.18
B123	101.2	122.3	mdc-STM-003	0.72
B124	124.4	130.6	mdc-STM-003	0.76
B125	124.6	142.2	mdc-STM-003	0.83
B326	140.8	160.8	mdc-STM-003	0.94
B333	94.2	106.6	mdc-STM-003	0.62
B322	127.4	146.8	mdc-STM-003	2.14
B323	108.6	120.0	mdc-STM-003	1.75
B327	129.4	144.6	mdc-STM-003	2.11
B329	99.8	115.8	mdc-STM-003	1.69
B331	106.4	124.8	mdc-STM-003	1.82

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1224 Supplementary Table S2. Median weight (Q1, Q3) in kg for each experimental cattle group at

1225 each weighing date.

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Experimental arm	Control N=5	mdc-STM-001 N=5	mdc-STM-002 N=5	mdc-STM-003 N=5	mdc-STM-004 N=5
Weighing date					
2020-11-25	114 (110,125)	117 (109,119)	129 (107,138)	124 (101,125)	109 (106,127)
2020-12-24	116 (116,126)	118 (114, 123)	134 (105,136)	121 (109,126)	113 (112,133)
2021-01-14	129 (123,140)	127 (120,140)	138 (121,145)	131 (122, 142)	125 (120, 145)
2021-02-15	138 (138,151)	135 (134,153)	157 (134,162)	146 (138,159)	139 (134,157)
2021-03-15	144 (141,152)	141 (141,158)	164 (134,169)	150 (138,162)	142 (140,163)
2021-04-15	162 (155,162)	160 (152,170)	177 (149,178)	166 (148,181)	163 (149,178)
2021-05-15	161 (155,167)	164 (161,177)	183 (157,186)	167 (158,182)	170 (149,173)

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1230   Supplementary Table S3. Mean (SD) pharmacokinetic parameters of ivermectin in cattle

1231   plasma after single subcutaneous administration of LAIFs at 0.6 or 1.5 mg/kg

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Parameters	mdc-STM-001-0.6	mdc-STM-002-0.6	mdc-STM-003-0.6	mdc-STM-003-1.5
Tmax $_a$ (h)	24 (24; 48)	48 (24; 168)	24 (24; 48)	24 (24; 168)
Cmax (ng/mL)	35.4 (12.7)	50.3 (13.7)	58.1 (25.2)	81.2 (32.2)
Cmax/Dose (ng/mL/mg/kg)	58.3 (22.0)	84.3 (22.6)	99.4 (42.2)	56.1 (22.4)
Clast (ng/mL)	3.93 (2.75)	1.03 (0.70)	3.43 (2.74)	6.30 (4.35)
AUC(0-28d) (h.ng/mL)	14227 (3853)	16253 (5465)	18085 (9789)	26248 (5534)
AUC(0-28d)/Dose (h.ng/mL/mg/kg)	23378 (6862)	27298 (9171)	30956 (16689)	18116 (3822)
AUC(0-91d) (h.ng/mL)	25055 (2936)	21121 (8866)	28890 (18668)	41820 (13286)
AUC(0-91d)/Dose (h.ng/mL/mg/kg)	40990 (5664)	35479 (14839)	49483 (31994)	28903 (9300)
AUClast (h.ng/mL)	28534 (2316)	22322 (9059)	32851 (21691)	47192 (15724)
AUClast/Dose (h.ng/mL/mg/kg)	46589 (3960)	37497 (15165)	56269 (37147)	32630 (11042)
T1/2 (h)	784 (244) (n=4)	731 (579) (n=4)	728 (399) (n=3)	489 (n=1)
C28d (ng/mL)	13.7 (1.6)	8.90 (4.85)	11.1 (8.3)	15.5 (5.1)
C56d (ng/mL)	6.70 (1.67)	2.92 (2.63)	7.34 (7.14)	10.3 (6.9)
C91d (ng/mL)	3.48 (1.85)	1.11 (0.84)	4.33 (3.99)	5.55 (3.72)

SD: standard deviation.
$_a$ Median (min; max).
Tmax: time to reach Cmax. Cmax: maximal plasma concentration. Clast: last quantifiable plasma concentration.
AUC(0-28d): area under curve from time 0 to 28 days. AUC(0-28d)/Dose: dose-normalized AUC(0-28d).
AUC(0-91d): area under curve from time 0 to 91 days. AUC(0-91d)/Dose: dose-normalized AUC(0-91d).
AUClast: area under curve from time 0 to last quantifiable plasma level. AUClast/Dose: dose-normalized
AUClast. T1/2: apparent terminal phase half-life. C28d: plasma concentration 28 days post injection. C56d:
plasma concentration 56 days post injection. C91d: plasma concentration 91 days post injection.
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1242   Supplementary Table S4. Ivermectin extraction results in each depot collected at study end

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Treatment Dose (mg/kg)	Animal ID	IVM injected dose (mg)	IVM recovered dose (mg)		IVM recovered dose (%)	
			Indiv.	Mean (SD)	Indiv.	Mean (SD)
mdc-STM-001-0.6	B122	100.4	38.6		38.5	
	B126	85.0	18.3		21.6	
	B128	73.3	2.5	19.4 (12.9)	3.3	23.0 (12.7)
	B332	76.3	20.6		27.0	
	B335	67.9	16.8		24.8	
mdc-STM-002-0.6	B121	76.1	39.0		51.3	
	B130	84.7	6.1		7.2	
	B324	69.0	23.4	32.3 (17.7)	33.9	39.1 (19.6)
	B330	87.7	41.7		47.6	
	B334	92.0	51.1		55.5	
mdc-STM-003-0.6	B123	70.6	5.4		7.7	
	B124	76.4	14.3		18.7	
	B125	81.1	42.6	17.8 (14.4)	52.6	23.1 (17.6)
	B326	96.4	12.0		12.5	
	B333	61.6	14.8		24.0	
mdc-STM-003-1.5	127.4	211.6	69.8		33.0	
	108.6	173.8	55.5		32.0	
	129.4	212.3	0.5	59.5 (35.5)	0.2	32.7 (20.0)
	99.8	164.8	79.7		48.4	
	106.4	182.9	91.8		50.2	

1244   IVM: ivermectin. Indiv.: individual. SD: standard deviation.

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1249   Supplementary Table S5. Copolymers extraction results in each depot collected at study end

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Treatment Dose (mg/kg)	Animal ID	Copolymer injected (mg)	Copolymer recovered (mg)	Copolymer recovered (%)	
				Indiv.	Mean (SD)
mdc-STM-001-0.6	B122	442.2	120.1	27.2	
	B126	374.4	90.0	24.0	
	B128	323.1	17.3	5.4	18.8 (8.5)
	B332	336.0	55.5	16.5	
	B335	299.1	63.3	21.1	
mdc-STM-002-0.6	B121	217.6	105.8	48.6	
	B130	242.2	19.5	8.0	
	B324	197.4	77.3	39.2	34.1 (15.9)
	B330	250.8	108.8	43.4	
	B334	263.2	81.6	31.0	
mdc-STM-003-0.6	B123	155.6	25.0	16.1	
	B124	168.4	11.4	6.8	
	B125	178.6	39.5	22.1	25.9 (25.0)
	B326	212.4	32.0	15.1	
	B333	135.6	94.2	69.5	
mdc-STM-003-1.5	127.4	466.2	196.4	42.1	
	108.6	382.8	164.3	42.9	
	129.4	467.6	3.5	0.8	34.1 (18.8)
	99.8	363.0	167.4	46.1	
	106.4	403.0	155.6	38.6	

1251   Indiv.: individual. SD: standard deviation.
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Supplementary Table S6. Number of mosquitoes homozygous or heterozygous for the

mutated KDR-W allele (resistant allele, R) of the voltage-gated sodium channel gene, which

confers resistance to pyrethroids. In contrast, the wild-type allele is designated S

(susceptible allele). RR and RS indicate homozygous and heterozygous genotypes for the

KDR-W mutation, respectively. SS corresponds to homozygosity for the wild-type allele.

Resistant phenotypes (RR and RS genotypes) among the tested mosquitoes (n) are given as

percentages. Numbers are reported per generation (F2 to F9) and per day after injection

(DAI) at which mosquitoes were exposed to cattle.

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DAI	Generation (F)	RR (n)	RS (n)	SS (n)	Resistant phenotypes (%)	Moquitoes tested (n)
pre-dose	F2	10	15	8	73,52941176	33
2, 7, 17, 21, 28	F3	2	6	2	80	10
42	F5	12	20	9	74,41860465	41
56	F6				na	na
70, 84, 91, 98	F7	6	19	21	54,34782609	47
105,112, 119	F8				na	na
126	F9	5	14	17	52,77777778	36

 Supplementary Table S7A. Number of KIS blood fed mosquitoes followed for their survival

 before injection (BI) and at the different days after injection (DAI) for each cattle of the

 different treatment groups.

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Mosquito Colony	Treatment	Cattle ID	BI	Day after injection (DAI)														
				2	7	17	21	28	42	56	70	84	91	98	105	112	119	126
kis	Control	B127	40	31	0	37	39	0	19	29	41	40	0	40	37	38	39	39
		B129	40	34	0	31	41	0	38	31	41	41	0	36	32	38	40	40
		B321	40	34	0	38	34	0	39	38	41	40	0	0	0	39	43	41
		B328	41	20	0	35	37	0	32	38	42	40	0	42	42	41	41	38
		B336	38	34	0	37	42	0	19	32	41	40	0	39	39	41	39	40
	mdc-STM-001-0.6	B122	40	38	0	39	40	20	40	37	40	39	0	40	37	40	41	42
		B126	39	40	0	40	40	21	40	38	38	36	0	40	40	42	38	36
		B128	38	28	0	39	41	9	40	41	41	40	0	0	0	40	37	41
		B332	40	41	0	34	39	21	38	42	40	44	0	38	40	43	39	38
		B335	40	38	0	40	40	24	32	39	39	43	0	39	41	41	40	41
	mdc-STM-002-0.6	B121	38	38	0	40	43	10	37	44	38	40	0	39	36	41	40	40
		B130	40	39	0	40	40	21	40	42	32	40	0	38	15	39	38	39
		B324	40	39	0	40	40	21	40	39	40	40	0	37	40	36	39	37
		B330	40	41	0	41	40	24	31	40	39	40	0	40	38	39	39	39
		B334	40	38	0	40	40	18	40	38	39	43	0	0	0	42	40	38
	mdc-STM-003-0.6	B123	40	40	0	41	38	10	40	40	40	39	0	38	37	40	39	38
		B124	38	39	0	37	39	6	40	40	40	42	0	39	42	38	37	40
		B125	40	40	0	38	40	25	39	38	40	41	0	0	0	38	39	41
		B326	40	37	0	39	40	16	40	38	40	42	0	39	37	39	40	40
		B333	40	42	0	39	39	4	41	36	43	38	0	40	33	40	40	42
	mdc-STM-003-1.5	B322	40	39	0	39	40	20	40	39	40	42	0	41	37	38	42	40
		B323	40	40	0	39	40	18	39	32	40	40	0	25	37	40	42	44
		B327	40	35	0	38	40	17	41	24	38	41	0	43	26	36	39	41
		B329	38	38	0	40	40	0	35	40	41	42	0	41	36	40	41	39
		B331	40	38	0	38	40	6	30	39	39	40	0	0	0	42	38	39
Total			990	921	0	959	992	311	910	934	993	1013	0	774	722	991	990	993

Supplementary Table S7B. Number of VK5 blood fed mosquitoes followed for their survival before injection (BI) and at the different days after injection (DAI) for each cattle of the different treatment groups.

Mosquito Colony	Treatment	Cattle ID	BI	Days after injection (DAI)														
				2	7	17	21	28	42	56	70	84	91	98	105	112	119	126
vk5	Control	B127	40	41	31	39	41	38	39	40	38	40	42	40	41	39	40	41
		B129	40	39	34	40	40	39	40	39	41	41	41	40	41	38	39	39
		B321	40	38	36	42	34	36	40	41	37	40	39	41	40	39	39	38
		B328	40	40	38	38	39	37	40	42	40	42	39	42	41	39	40	41
		B336	41	37	39	36	37	41	40	42	37	42	42	43	42	40	41	42
	mdc-STM-001-0.6	B122	40	41	39	40	40	41	40	40	40	41	40	39	43	41	42	41
		B126	40	41	40	39	41	40	39	39	39	42	40	40	43	40	40	40
		B128	39	39	40	39	40	38	41	41	39	41	40	40	40	39	42	41
		B332	40	40	37	40	40	38	41	41	40	40	38	39	41	41	42	39
		B335	41	41	40	39	41	41	40	38	38	40	40	42	40	38	40	40
	mdc-STM-002-0.6	B121	38	41	40	41	40	40	38	37	38	38	37	38	40	39	42	42
		B130	40	38	37	40	40	41	38	39	40	46	39	40	45	39	39	39
		B324	40	40	40	40	40	42	39	41	39	42	40	43	42	39	39	40
		B330	40	39	39	40	39	40	37	40	36	40	40	38	43	40	43	37
		B334	40	39	41	41	40	38	40	40	40	39	38	39	43	39	43	40
	mdc-STM-003-0.6	B123	40	40	40	40	39	39	39	40	40	40	40	41	41	42	40	43
		B124	39	40	39	40	39	43	36	41	39	42	40	41	43	40	43	39
		B125	40	39	38	42	42	41	39	40	40	40	41	39	43	41	40	41
		B326	40	40	39	40	41	34	40	39	40	40	40	43	43	39	40	39
		B333	40	40	41	40	38	40	38	38	40	39	40	40	42	41	40	39
	mdc-STM-003-1.5	B322	40	39	40	40	40	41	39	39	40	38	38	40	40	40	39	39
		B323	39	39	39	38	39	37	41	40	40	40	41	43	40	43	39	41
		B327	40	40	40	40	40	39	38	39	37	43	40	39	40	40	42	40
		B329	40	41	40	39	39	37	37	40	41	40	40	39	40	41	43	41
		B331	40	40	39	40	39	41	39	41	40	39	40	38	41	39	41	39
Total			997	992	966	993	988	982	978	997	979	1015	995	1007	1038	996	1018	1001

Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR (CI 95%)	z.ratio	p.value
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	BI	4	1 (0.1-17.2)	0.0018088	1.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	BI	4	1.9 (0.2-22.7)	0.6900508	0.9587058
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	BI	4	0.8 (0-14.3)	-0.1754490	0.9997884
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	BI	4	1.9 (0.2-22.4)	0.6751535	0.9618095
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	2	4	32.2 (9.8-106.3)	7.9378105	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	2	4	59.3 (18-195.1)	9.3486912	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	2	4	58.3 (17.7-191.8)	9.3098183	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	2	4	57.3 (17.4-188.9)	9.2598711	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	17	4	56 (17-184.3)	9.2185509	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	17	4	53.4 (16.2-175.7)	9.1132259	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	17	4	50.4 (15.3-165.8)	8.9748191	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	17	4	60.6 (18.4-199.5)	9.3992086	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	21	4	25.5 (9.3-70.3)	8.7248194	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	21	4	23.4 (8.5-64.4)	8.4758112	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	21	4	27.7 (10.1-76.4)	8.9365409	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	21	4	27.7 (10-76.2)	8.9388090	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	42	4	41.1 (10.2-165.9)	7.2625835	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	42	4	24 (5.9-97.5)	6.1919836	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	42	4	28.2 (7-114.1)	6.5248654	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	42	4	40.3 (10-162.9)	7.2196770	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	56	4	55.9 (14-223.3)	7.9184506	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	56	4	23.6 (5.8-95)	6.1826556	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	56	4	52.2 (13-209.7)	7.7629011	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	56	4	81.4 (20.3-326.2)	8.6502114	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	70	4	26.4 (8.2-84.9)	7.6620884	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	70	4	6.2 (1.9-20.7)	4.1257303	0.0003562
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	70	4	19.8 (6.1-64)	6.9522992	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	70	4	34.4 (10.7-110.5)	8.2674788	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	84	4	7.9 (2.9-21.6)	5.5987636	0.0000002
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	84	4	2.2 (0.8-6.2)	1.9916567	0.2699699
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	84	4	6.8 (2.5-18.8)	5.1726904	0.0000023
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	84	4	12.8 (4.7-34.9)	6.9245385	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	98	4	38.4 (8.7-169.4)	6.7085831	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	98	4	2.7 (0.5-13.6)	1.6602615	0.4587964
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	98	4	21.2 (4.7-94.6)	5.5628717	0.0000003
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	98	4	36.7 (8.3-162.4)	6.6104282	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	112	4	25.7 (6.4-103.6)	6.3494193	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	112	4	5.6 (1.3-23.6)	3.2765643	0.0092896
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	112	4	23.5 (5.8-95.2)	6.1673392	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	112	4	26.8 (6.6-108)	6.4270674	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	126	4	160.9 (9.3-2793.8)	4.8561169	0.0000118
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	126	4	29.5 (1.6-528.9)	3.1984047	0.0120573

Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR (CI 95%)	z.ratio	p.value
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	126	4	156.2 (9-2712.6)	4.8271523	0.0000137
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	126	4	215.2 (12.4-3727.6)	5.1371852	0.0000028
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	BI	10	0.6 (0.2-2.3)	-0.9559426	0.8747113
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	BI	10	0.5 (0.1-1.8)	-1.5706514	0.5163317
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	BI	10	0.5 (0.2-1.9)	-1.3559929	0.6559403
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	BI	10	0.4 (0.1-1.5)	-1.9615231	0.2850212
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	2	10	22.3 (8.1-61.5)	8.3298780	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	2	10	44.4 (16.1-122.5)	10.2014974	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	2	10	44.1 (16-121.6)	10.1883342	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	2	10	40.8 (14.8-112.8)	9.9635258	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	17	10	22.1 (8.7-56.1)	9.0876376	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	17	10	19.9 (7.9-50.5)	8.7831843	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	17	10	19.5 (7.7-49.5)	8.7173277	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	17	10	22.9 (9-57.9)	9.1788002	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	21	10	19.4 (7.7-48.6)	8.8005338	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	21	10	16.7 (6.7-42)	8.3551000	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	21	10	20.7 (8.3-52)	8.9892405	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	21	10	21.3 (8.5-53.5)	9.0828836	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	42	10	12.1 (4.6-31.9)	7.0314926	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	42	10	7 (2.6-18.4)	5.4504723	0.0000005
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	42	10	8.9 (3.4-23.5)	6.1803507	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	42	10	12.3 (4.7-32.5)	7.0804487	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	56	10	14.4 (5.6-37.2)	7.6531475	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	56	10	7.2 (2.8-18.7)	5.6511352	0.0000002
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	56	10	14.5 (5.6-37.7)	7.6599087	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	56	10	21.2 (8.2-54.9)	8.7464041	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	70	10	12.3 (4.8-31.6)	7.2559840	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	70	10	3.2 (1.2-8.5)	3.2928640	0.0087904
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	70	10	9 (3.5-23.2)	6.3074379	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	70	10	15.7 (6.1-40.3)	7.9399520	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	84	10	8 (3.2-20.3)	6.1630229	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	84	10	2.4 (1-6.3)	2.5834060	0.0734027
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	84	10	5.7 (2.2-14.4)	5.0764744	0.0000038
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	84	10	10.1 (4-25.4)	6.8093812	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	98	10	10.1 (3.9-26.2)	6.5853039	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	98	10	2.1 (0.8-5.5)	1.9907963	0.2703929
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	98	10	5.7 (2.2-15.1)	4.9284663	0.0000082
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	98	10	9.6 (3.7-25)	6.4097776	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	112	10	10.9 (4-29.9)	6.4398595	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	112	10	3.3 (1.2-9.3)	3.1723213	0.0131335
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	112	10	10.7 (3.9-29.5)	6.3876542	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	112	10	11.5 (4.2-31.6)	6.5809723	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	126	10	34.9 (9.3-131.3)	7.3172285	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	126	10	10.5 (2.7-40.3)	4.7708941	0.0000181
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	126	10	33.2 (8.8-125.1)	7.2074558	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	126	10	45.5 (12.1-170.7)	7.8755092	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	BI	30	1.1 (0.5-2.3)	0.3311432	0.9974111
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	BI	30	1 (0.5-2.1)	-0.0125675	1.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	BI	30	0.8 (0.4-1.8)	-0.6516467	0.9663867
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	BI	30	0.9 (0.4-1.9)	-0.4079445	0.9941915
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	2	30	7.4 (3.5-15.7)	7.2400202	0.0000000

Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR (CI 95%)	z.ratio	p.value
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	2	30	18.3 (8.6-38.9)	10.5353421	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	2	30	18.4 (8.7-39.1)	10.5658195	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	2	30	12.6 (5.9-26.8)	9.1477425	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	17	30	10.6 (5.1-22.3)	8.7066586	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	17	30	9.4 (4.5-19.7)	8.2714953	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	17	30	9.4 (4.5-19.6)	8.2404428	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	17	30	11.8 (5.6-24.7)	9.0870759	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	21	30	10.1 (4.8-21.2)	8.5489587	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	21	30	7.4 (3.5-15.4)	7.3709439	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	21	30	10.7 (5.1-22.4)	8.7404073	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	21	30	11.6 (5.6-24.3)	9.0550481	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	42	30	5.9 (2.7-12.7)	6.3153947	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	42	30	3.8 (1.8-8.2)	4.7956175	0.0000160
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	42	30	4.7 (2.2-10.2)	5.5638129	0.0000003
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	42	30	6.8 (3.2-14.6)	6.8245889	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	56	30	5.5 (2.6-11.7)	6.2391368	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	56	30	3.1 (1.5-6.6)	4.1792820	0.0002827
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	56	30	6.8 (3.2-14.3)	6.9961241	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	56	30	7.1 (3.4-15.1)	7.1113294	0.0000000
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	70	30	3.5 (1.7-7.2)	4.6389669	0.0000345
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	70	30	1.4 (0.7-2.9)	1.2618253	0.7146990
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	70	30	2.7 (1.3-5.7)	3.7237241	0.0018361
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	70	30	4.8 (2.3-9.9)	5.8158608	0.0000001
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	84	30	3.6 (1.7-7.6)	4.8051976	0.0000153
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	84	30	1.5 (0.7-3.2)	1.5836401	0.5079043
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	84	30	2.5 (1.2-5.1)	3.3574350	0.0070421
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	84	30	4.2 (2-8.7)	5.3227185	0.0000010
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	98	30	3.8 (1.8-8.1)	4.8907639	0.0000099
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	98	30	1.4 (0.6-2.9)	1.1222767	0.7948357
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	98	30	2.8 (1.3-6)	3.7662399	0.0015562
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	98	30	4.4 (2.1-9.3)	5.3605195	0.0000008
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	112	30	3.7 (1.8-7.8)	4.7881568	0.0000166
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	112	30	1.5 (0.7-3.2)	1.4979596	0.5637848
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	112	30	3.7 (1.8-7.9)	4.8328687	0.0000133
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	112	30	4.4 (2.1-9.3)	5.4279176	0.0000006
(MDC-STM-001-0.6)	Control	126	30	3.9 (1.9-8.3)	5.0130665	0.0000053
(MDC-STM-002-0.6)	Control	126	30	1.7 (0.8-3.6)	1.8970277	0.3188277
(MDC-STM-003-0.6)	Control	126	30	4.1 (2-8.7)	5.1720047	0.0000023
(MDC-STM-003-1.5)	Control	126	30	4.6 (2.2-9.7)	5.5941222	0.0000002

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Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR CI95%	z.ratio	p.value
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	BI	4	0.4 (0.1-2.3)	-1.4525092	0.5935112
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	BI	4	0.3 (0-1.9)	-1.7950230	0.3763965
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	BI	4	0.6 (0.1-2.6)	-0.9988111	0.8560128
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	BI	4	0.5 (0.1-2.7)	-1.0328193	0.8402120
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	2	4	75.1 (22.9-246)	9.9245770	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	2	4	72.9 (22.3-239)	9.8587828	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	2	4	101.1 (30.9-331.1)	10.6117691	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	2	4	91 (27.8-298)	10.3768245	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	7	4	134.2 (28.1-640.2)	8.5530652	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	7	4	169.1 (35.5-806.5)	8.9586219	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	7	4	178.3 (37.4-850.7)	9.0478567	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	7	4	255.2 (53.5-1217)	9.6791985	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	17	4	53.1 (15.5-181.7)	8.8085244	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	17	4	35.5 (10.4-121.7)	7.9027325	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	17	4	50.7 (14.8-173.6)	8.7020934	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	17	4	69.4 (20.3-237.1)	9.4072719	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	21	4	62.4 (17.3-225.1)	8.7889633	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	21	4	41.4 (11.4-149.7)	7.8924001	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	21	4	45.2 (12.5-163.7)	8.0827196	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	21	4	73.1 (20.3-263.7)	9.1269221	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	28	4	97 (20.3-463.2)	7.9817790	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	28	4	50.1 (10.5-240.3)	6.8120194	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	28	4	51.5 (10.7-246.8)	6.8614600	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	28	4	77 (16.1-368)	7.5763840	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	42	4	25.3 (8.2-77.9)	7.8344226	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	42	4	8.2 (2.6-25.8)	4.9966923	0.0000058
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	42	4	16.7 (5.4-51.8)	6.7820428	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	42	4	28.4 (9.2-87.5)	8.1068411	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	56	4	78.8 (13.6-454.9)	6.7925446	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	56	4	20.4 (3.4-121)	4.6202949	0.0000377
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	56	4	55.9 (9.6-324.8)	6.2355142	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	56	4	115.4 (20-665.7)	7.3936684	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	70	4	14.3 (4.1-49.8)	5.8249608	0.0000001
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	70	4	4.2 (1.1-15.4)	3.0047931	0.0223285
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	70	4	14.7 (4.2-51.1)	5.8808958	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	70	4	26.8 (7.8-92.5)	7.2458816	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	84	4	8.8 (2.6-29.8)	4.8796195	0.0000105
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	84	4	1.4 (0.4-5.7)	0.7288331	0.9498655
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	84	4	13.7 (4.1-45.9)	5.9298691	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	84	4	16.9 (5.1-56.1)	6.4215395	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	91	4	43.8 (5.4-353.9)	4.9315684	0.0000081
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	91	4	8.3 (0.9-73.3)	2.6608551	0.0599267
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	91	4	52.4 (6.5-422.1)	5.1774268	0.0000022
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	91	4	68.5 (8.5-550.5)	5.5334036	0.0000003
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	98	4	8.7 (2.3-32.5)	4.4604133	0.0000801
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	98	4	2.1 (0.5-8.9)	1.3968548	0.6296925
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	98	4	8.5 (2.3-31.8)	4.4446592	0.0000861

Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR CI95%	z.ratio	p.value
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	98	4	14.8 (4-54.2)	5.6493493	0.0000002
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	105	4	7.1 (2.2-23.3)	4.5143215	0.0000623
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	105	4	1.3 (0.3-4.9)	0.4836030	0.9888789
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	105	4	6.8 (2.1-22.2)	4.4256915	0.0000940
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	105	4	14.8 (4.6-47.2)	6.3098761	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	112	4	5.6 (1.6-20.3)	3.6722060	0.0022378
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	112	4	2.2 (0.6-8.8)	1.5855045	0.5066966
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	112	4	7.1 (2-25.1)	4.2230989	0.0002335
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	112	4	9.4 (2.7-33)	4.8654735	0.0000113
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	119	4	15.5 (3.2-76.1)	4.6954432	0.0000262
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	119	4	3.4 (0.6-18.7)	1.9371514	0.2975453
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	119	4	18.3 (3.8-89.3)	5.0046730	0.0000055
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	119	4	24.9 (5.1-120.6)	5.5529337	0.0000003
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	126	4	42.1 (5.2-340.3)	4.8779078	0.0000106
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	126	4	5.5 (0.6-51.2)	2.1031035	0.2186133
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	126	4	36.3 (4.5-293.7)	4.6872015	0.0000273
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	126	4	56.5 (7-454.2)	5.2765308	0.0000013
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	BI	10	0.5 (0.2-1.4)	-1.8412832	0.3497023
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	BI	10	0.6 (0.2-1.6)	-1.4389514	0.6023572
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	BI	10	0.7 (0.3-1.8)	-1.1321622	0.7895059
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	BI	10	0.7 (0.3-1.9)	-0.9502176	0.8771030
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	2	10	23.7 (10.5-53.7)	10.5671244	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	2	10	24.5 (10.8-55.4)	10.6674750	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	2	10	34.7 (15.3-78.6)	11.8402697	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	2	10	31.4 (13.9-71.1)	11.5091218	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	7	10	21.8 (9.5-49.9)	10.1539733	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	7	10	28.2 (12.3-64.4)	10.9963707	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	7	10	29.5 (12.9-67.5)	11.1369242	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	7	10	43.3 (18.9-99)	12.4087000	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	17	10	12.4 (5.6-27.6)	8.6218624	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	17	10	8.3 (3.7-18.5)	7.2272830	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	17	10	12.4 (5.6-27.5)	8.6164337	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	17	10	17.5 (7.9-38.8)	9.7930817	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	21	10	11.1 (5.1-24.4)	8.3818904	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	21	10	8 (3.6-17.6)	7.2161276	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	21	10	9.1 (4.1-19.9)	7.6585295	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	21	10	12.9 (5.9-28.4)	8.8957932	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	28	10	19.3 (8.1-45.7)	9.3607437	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	28	10	10.5 (4.4-25.1)	7.4189722	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	28	10	10.6 (4.5-25.3)	7.4419849	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	28	10	15.9 (6.7-37.6)	8.7267934	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	42	10	10.4 (4.5-24.1)	7.6317937	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	42	10	3.8 (1.6-8.9)	4.2488554	0.0002084
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	42	10	7.2 (3.1-16.8)	6.3764610	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	42	10	12.9 (5.6-29.7)	8.3139612	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	56	10	28.4 (10.1-80.2)	8.8128648	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	56	10	8.2 (2.8-23.6)	5.4098301	0.0000006
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	56	10	19.1 (6.7-54.4)	7.7040423	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	56	10	39.7 (14.1-111.8)	9.6938839	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	70	10	12.9 (4.6-36)	6.8149255	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	70	10	4.4 (1.5-12.6)	3.8067849	0.0013268

Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR CI95%	z.ratio	p.value
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	70	10	12.5 (4.5-34.9)	6.7040907	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	70	10	21.4 (7.7-59.5)	8.1851871	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	84	10	2.9 (1.3-6.7)	3.5562395	0.0034569
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	84	10	1.2 (0.5-2.9)	0.6589596	0.9650042
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	84	10	4.2 (1.9-9.6)	4.8024106	0.0000155
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	84	10	5.3 (2.4-12.1)	5.6207999	0.0000002
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	91	10	5.7 (2.3-14)	5.3194529	0.0000010
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	91	10	2.1 (0.8-5.3)	2.1260924	0.2088806
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	91	10	6.6 (2.7-16.2)	5.7875928	0.0000001
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	91	10	7.7 (3.2-18.8)	6.2545248	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	98	10	5.4 (2.1-13.8)	4.9224411	0.0000085
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	98	10	2.4 (0.9-6.3)	2.4565738	0.1007138
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	98	10	5.4 (2.1-13.7)	4.9189045	0.0000086
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	98	10	8.1 (3.2-20.3)	6.1510916	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	105	10	3.8 (1.6-9.1)	4.1562642	0.0003123
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	105	10	1.8 (0.7-4.3)	1.7014145	0.4329995
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	105	10	4.2 (1.8-10.1)	4.5216255	0.0000602
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	105	10	9.2 (3.9-21.7)	7.0669937	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	112	10	3.6 (1.5-8.7)	3.8574151	0.0010845
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	112	10	2.1 (0.8-5.2)	2.1245354	0.2095304
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	112	10	4.2 (1.7-10.1)	4.3546434	0.0001299
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	112	10	4.4 (1.8-10.8)	4.5611161	0.0000500
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	119	10	6.2 (2.3-16.6)	5.0086104	0.0000054
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	119	10	2.2 (0.8-6.2)	2.0603323	0.2375089
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	119	10	6.2 (2.3-16.7)	5.0217955	0.0000051
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	119	10	9.9 (3.7-26.5)	6.4010372	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	126	10	8.6 (3.3-22)	6.2106643	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	126	10	2.2 (0.8-6.1)	2.1991847	0.1799034
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	126	10	6.9 (2.7-17.7)	5.5486393	0.0000003
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	126	10	9.4 (3.6-24)	6.4624035	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	BI	30	0.9 (0.5-1.7)	-0.4413259	0.9921471
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	BI	30	0.8 (0.4-1.6)	-0.7137346	0.9534396
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	BI	30	0.7 (0.4-1.4)	-1.3516314	0.6587202
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	BI	30	0.7 (0.4-1.4)	-1.3346408	0.6695032
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	2	30	9.5 (5-18.1)	9.5963295	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	2	30	12.6 (6.7-24)	10.7821368	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	2	30	15.2 (8-28.9)	11.5763541	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	2	30	15.5 (8.2-29.5)	11.6599028	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	7	30	9.9 (5.2-18.9)	9.7065456	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	7	30	11.7 (6.1-22.2)	10.3959345	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	7	30	13.1 (6.9-24.9)	10.8754247	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	7	30	20.5 (10.7-39)	12.7590423	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	17	30	7.1 (3.8-13.5)	8.3577625	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	17	30	4.3 (2.3-8.2)	6.2506357	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	17	30	6.5 (3.4-12.4)	7.9786739	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	17	30	10.6 (5.6-20.2)	10.0472269	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	21	30	7.6 (4-14.4)	8.6089502	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	21	30	5 (2.6-9.5)	6.8561647	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	21	30	5.2 (2.7-9.9)	6.9905957	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	21	30	8.9 (4.7-16.9)	9.2674039	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	28	30	6.8 (3.6-13)	8.1629184	0.0000000

Formulation	Treatment arm	DAI	Follow-up (days)	HR CI95%	z.ratio	p.value
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	28	30	3.5 (1.8-6.7)	5.3356150	0.0000009
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	28	30	3.5 (1.9-6.7)	5.3392816	0.0000009
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	28	30	5.6 (2.9-10.6)	7.2901991	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	42	30	5.5 (2.9-10.7)	7.0734936	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	42	30	2.2 (1.1-4.2)	3.1845824	0.0126174
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	42	30	4.4 (2.3-8.4)	6.0755004	0.0000000
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	42	30	6.3 (3.2-12.1)	7.5618084	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	56	30	4.8 (2.5-9.1)	6.6095855	0.0000000
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	56	30	1.8 (0.9-3.4)	2.4143863	0.1113955
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	56	30	3.4 (1.8-6.5)	5.1304999	0.0000029
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	56	30	7 (3.7-13.4)	8.2612435	0.0000000
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	70	30	2.8 (1.5-5.3)	4.3426810	0.0001371
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	70	30	1.5 (0.8-2.8)	1.5709813	0.5161174
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	70	30	2.5 (1.3-4.7)	3.8103196	0.0013084
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	70	30	4 (2.1-7.6)	5.8398598	0.0000001
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	84	30	1.6 (0.9-3.1)	2.1039597	0.2182455
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	84	30	1.1 (0.6-2.2)	0.5889268	0.9767710
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	84	30	2.4 (1.3-4.6)	3.8137967	0.0012905
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	84	30	2.7 (1.4-5.2)	4.2572940	0.0002008
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	91	30	1.9 (1-3.7)	2.7988980	0.0410041
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	91	30	1.2 (0.6-2.2)	0.6465748	0.9673238
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	91	30	2.3 (1.2-4.4)	3.5590342	0.0034214
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	91	30	2.5 (1.3-4.9)	3.9686477	0.0006898
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	98	30	2 (1.1-3.9)	3.0181363	0.0214296
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	98	30	1.2 (0.6-2.3)	0.8332180	0.9203662
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	98	30	2 (1.1-3.8)	2.9714118	0.0247237
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	98	30	2.5 (1.3-4.8)	3.9617328	0.0007098
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	105	30	1.4 (0.8-2.7)	1.5660574	0.5193176
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	105	30	1.1 (0.6-2.1)	0.4346779	0.9925898
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	105	30	1.7 (0.9-3.3)	2.3262059	0.1365363
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	105	30	2.9 (1.5-5.4)	4.5183891	0.0000611
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	112	30	1.6 (0.9-3.1)	2.1173510	0.2125465
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	112	30	1.3 (0.7-2.4)	0.9586987	0.8735510
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	112	30	1.7 (0.9-3.2)	2.1785290	0.1877897
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	112	30	2.1 (1.1-4)	3.1795246	0.0128281
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	119	30	1.9 (1-3.7)	2.7986785	0.0410296
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	119	30	1.3 (0.7-2.5)	1.1645890	0.7716195
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	119	30	1.9 (1-3.7)	2.7812962	0.0430913
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	119	30	2.6 (1.4-5)	4.0242898	0.0005475
mdc-STM-001(0.6)	Control	126	30	2.2 (1.2-4.2)	3.3472055	0.0072961
mdc-STM-002(0.6)	Control	126	30	1 (0.5-2)	0.1792798	0.9997694
mdc-STM-003(0.6)	Control	126	30	1.9 (1-3.6)	2.7780905	0.0434810
mdc-STM-003(1.5)	Control	126	30	2.2 (1.1-4.1)	3.2770919	0.0092731

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Supplementary table S9. Between formulations comparisons of 4-day LC50 and L90 values for

KIS mosquitoes fed on treated cattle.

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Comparison	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
001-0.6/002-0.6:50/50	0.8867454	0.5245928	-0.2158904	0.8290732
001-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	0.9276367	0.5590509	-0.1294396	0.8970098
001-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	0.9299036	0.5664743	-0.1237415	0.9015200
002-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	1.0461138	0.3575767	0.1289621	0.8973877
002-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.0486704	0.3703614	0.1314131	0.8954485
003-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.0024438	0.3723224	0.0065637	0.9947629
001-0.6/002-0.6:90/90	1.3316348	0.7287634	0.4550651	0.6490624
001-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	1.1868356	0.5802706	0.3219801	0.7474678
001-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	0.9649750	0.4975064	-0.0704012	0.9438744
002-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	0.8912621	0.4205113	-0.2585850	0.7959554
002-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	0.7246544	0.3618711	-0.7608942	0.4467203
003-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	0.8130654	0.3533909	-0.5289739	0.5968236

1348 001 = mdc-STM-001
1349 002 = mdc-STM-002
1350 003 = mdc-STM-003

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1352 Supplementary Table S10. Between formulations comparisons of 10-day LC50 and LC90

1353 values for KIS mosquitoes fed on treated cattle.

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Comparison	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
001-0.6/002-0.6:50/50	0.8503147	0.4901133	-0.3054095	0.7600542
001-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	0.8484447	0.4406361	-0.3439467	0.7308864
001-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	0.9622920	0.5826786	-0.0647150	0.9484009
002-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	0.9978008	0.4234921	-0.0051931	0.9958566
002-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.1316892	0.5956824	0.2210728	0.8250358
003-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.1341835	0.5253544	0.2554152	0.7984025
001-0.6/002-0.6:90/90	0.9526083	0.5708619	-0.0830179	0.9338373
001-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	1.1594824	0.5445723	0.2928580	0.7696307
001-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.0292734	0.5106321	0.0573278	0.9542841
002-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	1.2171660	0.6993343	0.3105324	0.7561561
002-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.0804792	0.6443631	0.1248973	0.9006048
003-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	0.8877008	0.4136421	-0.2714888	0.7860151

1355 001 = mdc-STM-001
1356 002 = mdc-STM-002
1357 003 = mdc-STM-003

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1363 Supplementary Table S11. Between formulations comparisons of 4-day LC50 and LC90 values

1364 for VK5 mosquitoes fed on treated cattle.

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Comparison	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
001-0.6/002-0.6:50/50	0.8629191	0.2962409	-0.4627344	0.6435547
001-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	0.9532895	0.2969513	-0.1573003	0.8750082
001-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	0.9981696	0.3163292	-0.0057865	0.9953830
002-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	1.1047263	0.3647694	0.2871029	0.7740335
002-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.1567359	0.3878491	0.4041157	0.6861277
003-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.0470792	0.3169059	0.1485588	0.8819018

Comparison	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
001-0.6/002-0.6:90/90	0.8442851	0.4320073	-0.3604451	0.7185143
001-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	0.9480422	0.4348192	-0.1194928	0.9048849
001-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.0899361	0.4614506	0.1948987	0.8454723
002-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	1.1228935	0.5912852	0.2078414	0.8353528
002-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.2909575	0.6405087	0.4542600	0.6496417
003-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.1496704	0.5072949	0.2950363	0.7679661

001 = mdc-STM-001
002 = mdc-STM-002
003 = mdc-STM-003

Supplementary table S12. Between formulations comparisons of 10-day LC50 and LC90 values for VK5 mosquitoes fed on treated cattle.

Comparison	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value	p-value
001-0.6/002-0.6:50/50	0.9513449	0.4334657	-0.1122468	0.9106277
001-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	0.9647061	0.4190361	-0.0842264	0.9328765
001-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	0.9823391	0.4071531	-0.0433767	0.9654013
002-0.6/003-0.6:50/50	1.0140446	0.4935095	0.0284586	0.9772964
002-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.0325793	0.4842848	0.0672731	0.9463643
003-0.6/003-1.5:50/50	1.0182780	0.4565668	0.0400337	0.9680663
001-0.6/002-0.6:90/90	0.9165698	0.5121319	-0.1629076	0.8705911
001-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	1.0141546	0.4742174	0.0298484	0.9761880
001-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.0997614	0.5007874	0.1992090	0.8420993
002-0.6/003-0.6:90/90	1.1064674	0.6179795	0.1722831	0.8632150
002-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.1998665	0.6578991	0.3037950	0.7612841
003-0.6/003-1.5:90/90	1.0844119	0.4934883	0.1710515	0.8641833

001 = mdc-STM-001
002 = mdc-STM-002
003 = mdc-STM-003

1384 Supplementary Table S13. Lethal concentration (LC50) for KIS and VK5 mosquitoes over 4-
1385 day follow up period (4-day LC50). Mean concentrations are given with lower and upper
1386 confidence intervals (95% CI).

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Cumulative mortality window (days)	Mortality %	KIS mosquitoes	VK5 mosquitoes	*P-value* (between colony comparison)
4	50	2.89 [2.27-3.67]	5.26 [4.36-6.35]	1.0e-07
4	90	9.2 [6.72-12.59]	17.65 [12.86-24.22]	0.0e+00

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1391 **Supplementary figures**

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1396 Supplementary Fig. S1: Additional mean concentration–time profiles of ivermectin in cattle
1397 plasma. Panels A and C: profiles by formulation at a dose of 0.6 mg/kg for the entire
1398 experiment (A) and during the first 7 days post-injection to visualize the initial burst (C).
1399 Panels B and D: profiles by dose for the entire experiment (B) and during the first 7 days
1400 post-injection (D)

 Supplementary Fig. S2. Kaplan-Meier plots illustrating the mosquitocidal effects of the
candidate long-lasting ivermectin formulations administered to calves at doses of 0.6 mg/kg
(mdc-STM-001, mdc-STM-002 and mdc-STM-003) or 1.5 mg/kg (mdc-STM-003 only). The
plots depict the results from each direct skin feeding assay conducted at the indicated time
points (Days After Injection, DAI). Mosquito survival was monitored daily for up to 30 days
post-blood meal. Pannel A: KIS colony, Pannel B: VK5 colony.

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Supplementary Fig. S3: 4-day cumulative mortality of KIS and VK5 colony mosquitoes after
feeding on calves treated using the candidate formulations. Treated cattle received a single
LAIF injection at a dose of 0.6mg/kg for the mdc-STM-001, mdc-STM-002, mdc-STM-003
formulations, and at an additional dose of 1.5 mg/kg for the mdc-STM-003. The smooth line
represents mean values estimated by the LOESS (locally estimated scatterplot smoothing)
method and grey area shows CI95%. See the main text for further details.

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1425 Supplementary Fig. S4. Heat maps illustrating the lower 95% confidence limit (LCL) of 4-day
1426 and 30-day mortality hazard ratios (HRs) for KIS and VK5 colony mosquitoes fed at different
1427 DAIs on cattle treated with the formulations mdc-STM-001-0.6, mdc-STM-002-0.6, mdc-
1428 STM-003-0.6 or mdc-STM-003-1.5. HR and *P-values* for each DAI are available in
1429 Additional file 1: table S7. BI is the timepoint before injection.
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1433 Supplementary Fig. S5. Relationship between ivermectin plasma concentration and 4-days (A
1434 and B) or 10-day (C and D) cumulative mortality for each candidate formulation. A and C: KIS
1435 colony mosquitoes. B and C: VK5 colony mosquitoes
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1439 Supplementary Fig.6. Relationship between ivermectin plasma concentrations and 4-day
1440 cumulative mosquito mortality for KIS and VK5 colonies.
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