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Prevalence of Lymphatic Filariasis from 1999 through 2004 in a Set of Solitary Island in the Southern Pacific

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Abstract: As part of the Pacific Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis, baseline surveys were conducted in 1999 and 2004 in Nauru to determine the prevalence of filariasis by rapid immunochromatographic test (ICT). In 1999, the prevalence of filariasis was 0.26%, and Nauru was classified as a non-endemic area. In 2004, the prevalence resulting from the survey was 1.66%. Since 2004, 1.0%, this high prevalence warranted the implementation of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) according to WHO guidelines and gave rise to an urgent new filariasis policy in Nauru, as the target year for filariasis elimination is 2010. The present study was conducted to determine the current prevalence of filariasis in Nauru.

whether implementation of the MDA program is necessary, and to demographic characteristics of participants according to the ICT test sampling and interviews, based on a simple questionnaire asking about symptoms, were conducted by trained health staff members. A total of 1000 participants were enrolled for the survey in January 2007. Filariasis positivity was determined (0.2%) by ICT test. Nauru was reconfirmed as a non-endemic country and does not require the MDA implementation. The prevalence did not vary with the demographic characteristics. The three seropositive cases did not have related symptoms. However, two of the three positive cases of filariasis lived in the same district and the other lived in a neighboring district. To assess the inter-district transmission, further surveys are recommended.

Key words: [Lymphatic filariasis](#), [Nauru](#), [PacELF](#), [MDA](#), [ICT](#)

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