



## Article Navigation

# *Mansonella perstans* filariasis in Uganda: patterns of microfilaraemia and clinical manifestations in two endemic communities

Santa Maria Asio, Paul E. Simonsen ✉, Ambrose W. Onapa

*Transactions of The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, Volume 103, Issue 3, March 2009, Pages 266–273,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trstmh.2008.08.007>**Published:** 01 March 2009 **Article history** ▾

PDF

■ Split View

“ Cite

🔑 Permissions

🔗 Share ▾

## Summary

Surveys for *Mansonella perstans* infection and potentially related clinical manifestations were undertaken in two endemic communities in Mukono and Luwero districts of Uganda where no other human filarial infections are transmitted. A sensitive and accurate counting chamber method was used for quantifying microfilaraemia in 100  $\mu$ l of finger-prick blood. Among 575 and 991 examined individuals aged  $\geq 1$  year in the two communities, the overall microfilariae (mf) prevalence was significantly higher in Mukono (76.5%) than in Luwero (57.7%). As early as age 1–4 years, 40.6% and 20.5% of the children were mf-positive. Prevalences increased rapidly with increasing age to reach 89.2% and 81.4% in the 15–19 years age group and then remained high in subsequent age groups. The geometric mean mf intensity among mf-positive individuals was slightly higher in the Mukono community (32.4 mf/100  $\mu$ l) than in the Luwero community (29.9 mf/100  $\mu$ l), and this parameter increased with age in both communities. No obvious associations were observed between various clinical parameters and *M. perstans* microfilaraemia in any of the study communities. The observed patterns of microfilaraemia and the lack of obvious visible clinical manifestations suggest that the host's regulatory responses are downregulated in *M. perstans* infections. [ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT00215280](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT00215280)]