

# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

© Malaria causes 900,000 deaths annually

© Resistance developed to chloroquine, mefloquine, quinine, atovaquone, pyrimethamine/sulfadoxin

© Chloroquine, primaquine, 1946-1947

© Mefloquine, halofantrine, lumefantrine, 1967-1970

© Cost To Develop One New Drug Is \$2.6 Billion

VACCINATION?



# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

## ILOS



☉ Classify the main antimalarial drugs depending on their goal of therapy

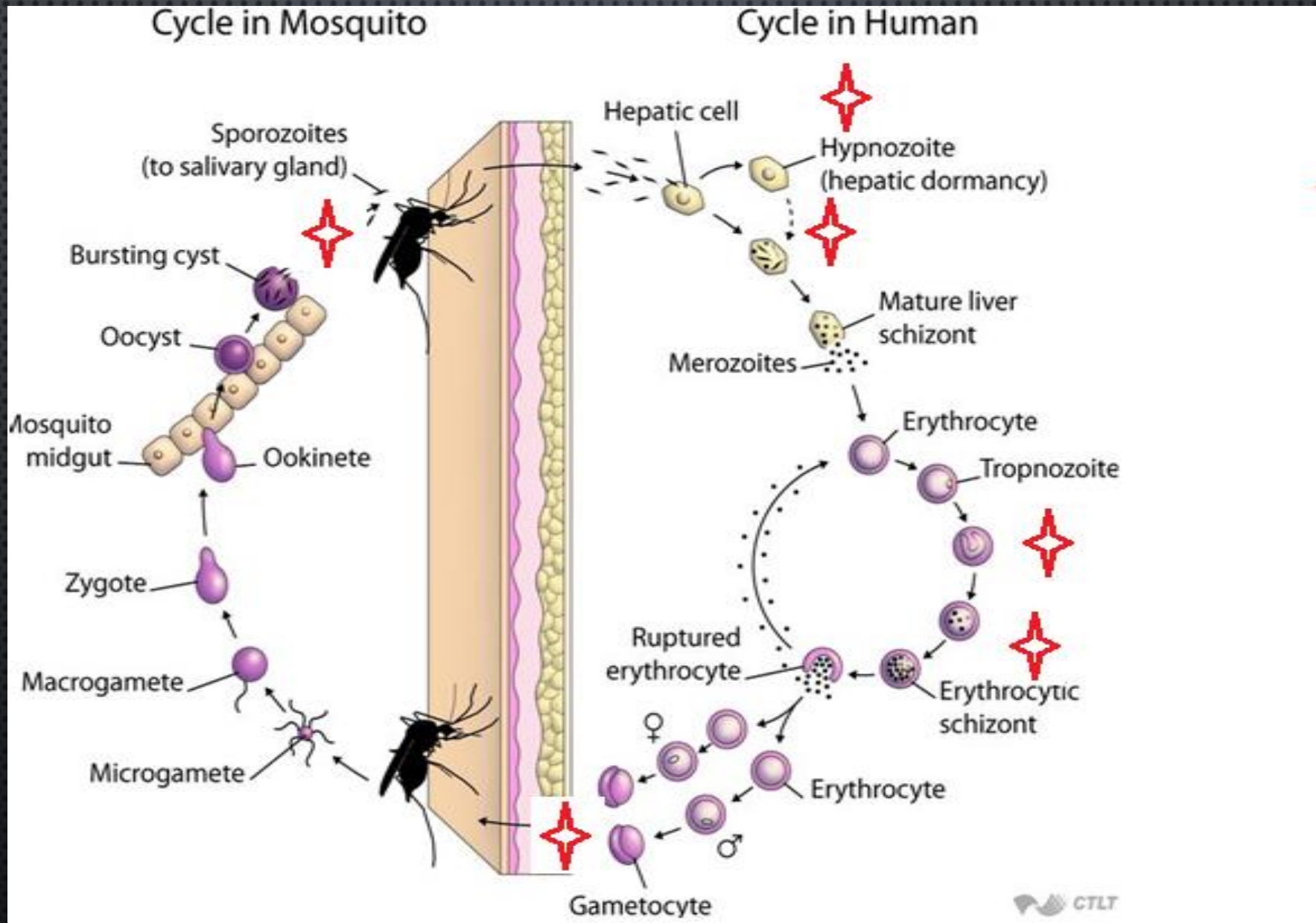
☉ Detail the pharmacokinetics & dynamics of main drugs used to treat attack or prevent relapses

☉ State the WHO therapeutic strategy for treatment

☉ Hint on the CDC recommendations for prophylaxis in travelers to endemic areas



# Cycle & Drugs site of action



# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS



## THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Causal  
prophylaxis

Destroys parasite in liver  
cells & prevent invasion  
of erythrocytes

Primaquine

Suppressive  
prophylaxis

Suppresses the  
erythrocytic phase &  
thus attack of malaria  
fever

Chloroquine,  
mefloquine,  
doxycycline

# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS



## THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Radical cure  
(erythrocytic  
schizonticide)

Eradicate all malarial  
forms of vivax  
from the body

Suppressive drug  
+ hypnozoitocidal

Gametocidal  
high efficacy

Destroys  
gametocytes  
& prevent  
transmission

Chloroquine,  
quinine against  
vivax

Slow acting  
low efficacy

Sporozoitocides

Destroys  
sporozoites

Primaquine, all  
species

Proguanil,  
pyrimethamine

# ARTEMESININ

Artemisinin is the active principle of the plant *Artemisia annua* (qinghaosu)

Fast acting blood Schizontocide

Affect all forms including multi-drug resistant *P. falciparum*

Short duration of action

High recrudescence rate

Poorly soluble in water & oil, can only be used orally



## NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE 2015

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015 was awarded with one half jointly to **William C. Campbell & Satoshi Omura** & the other half to **Youyou Tu**.

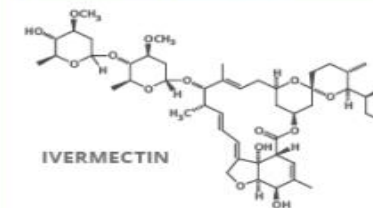


Youyou Tu is the first China-based scientist to win a Nobel Prize.



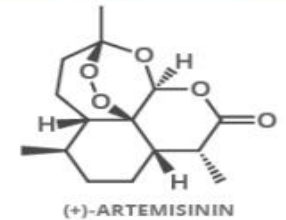
An ancient Chinese herbal remedy led to the isolation of artemisinin.

### AVERMECTINS



A class of compounds, discovered by Omura and Campbell, that kill roundworms, parasites that cause diseases such as river blindness.

### ARTEMESININ



An antimalarial drug discovered by Tu in the 1970s. It was derived from the wormwood plant, after a search of herbal remedies to find antimalarial drugs.



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# PHARMAKINETICS



Ⓢ Rapidly biotransformed in liver into dihydroartemisinin → active metabolite

Ⓢ Artemisinin, artesunate, artemether are prodrugs

Ⓢ Derivatives are rapidly absorbed orally

Ⓢ Widely distributed

Ⓢ  $t_{1/2}$  artemisinin → 4hrs / artesunate → 45min / artemether 4-11hrs

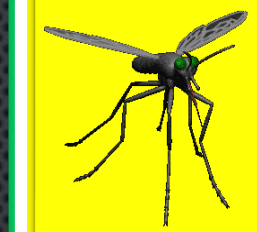
Ⓢ Artesunate (water-soluble; oral, IV, IM, rectal administration)

Ⓢ Artemether (lipid-soluble; oral, IM, and rectal administration)

Ⓢ Dihydroartemisinin (water-soluble; oral administration)

Ⓢ Induce its own CYP-mediated metabolism → ↑ clearance 5 fold

# ARTEMESININ



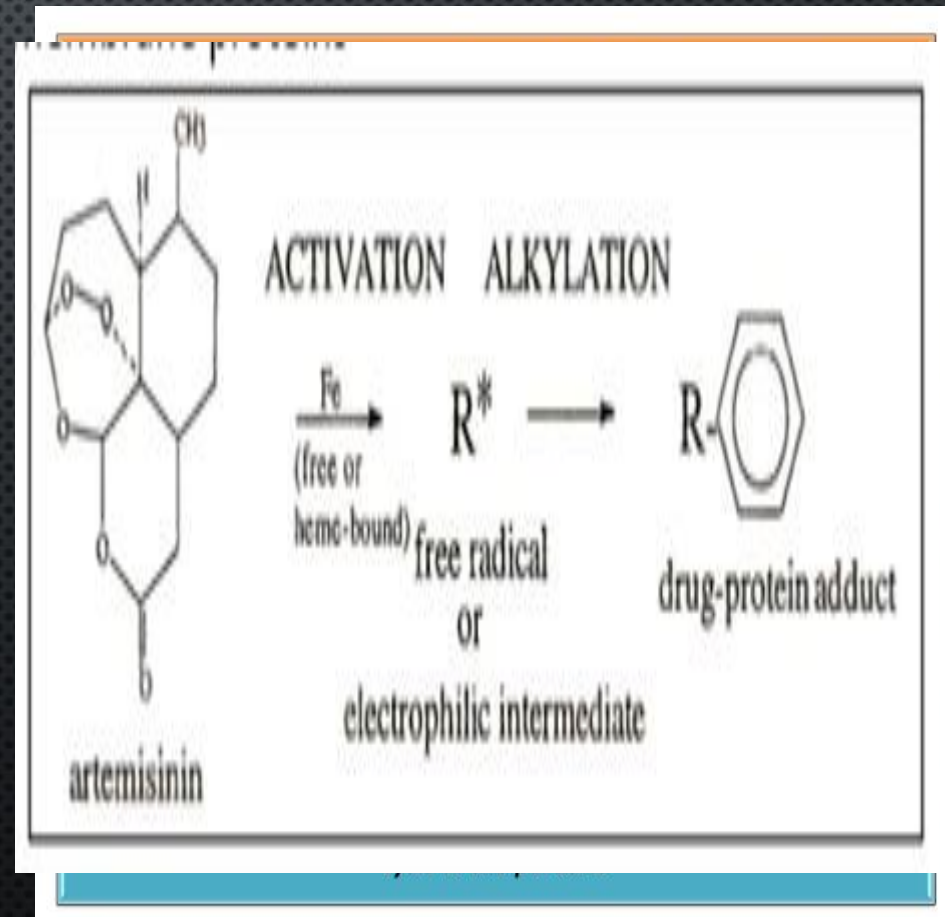
## MECHANISM

They have endoperoxide bridges that are cleaved by haem iron to yield carbon-centered free radicals, that will →

⊗ Alkylate membranes of parasite's food vacuole and mitochondria → no energy

⊗ Irreversibly bind & inhibit sarco-endoplasmic reticulum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase of the parasite, thereby inhibiting its growth

⊗ Inhibiting formation of transport vesicles → no food vacuoles





# ARTEMESININ



## ADRS

@ Transient heart block

@ ↓ Neutrophil count

@ Brief episodes of fever

Resistance → was reported recently in Cambodia- Thailand border



# ARTEMESININ



## CLINICAL USES

⊙ Because artemisinin derivatives have short  $t_{1/2}$ , (1) monotherapy should be extended beyond disappearance of parasite to prevent recrudescence or (2) by combining the drug with long-acting antimalarial drug

## PREPARATIONS

⊙ Artesunate IV or IM preparations for severe complicated cases as cerebral malaria (24h) followed by complete course of ACT

# ARTEMESININ



## PREPARATIONS

⊙ Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs):

➤ Artemether + lumefantrine

➤ Artemether + amodiaquine

➤ Artemether + mefloquine

➤ Artemether + sulfadoxine- pyrimethamine



# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

## CHLOROQUINE

Potent blood Schizontocide

Active against all forms of the schizonts (*exception is chloroquine-resistant P.f. & P.v.*)

No activity against tissue schizonts

⊙ Gametocide:-*Against all species except P. falciparum*



# CHLOROQUINE

## PHARMACOKINETICS

- Ⓢ Rapidly & completely absorbed from the GIT
- Ⓢ Has high volume of distribution(100-1000l/kg)
- Ⓢ Concentrated into parasitized RBCs
- Ⓢ Released slowly from tissues
- Ⓢ Metabolized in the liver
- Ⓢ Excreted in the urine 70% unchanged
- Ⓢ Initial  $t_{1/2}$  =2-3days & terminal  $t_{1/2}$ =1-2months



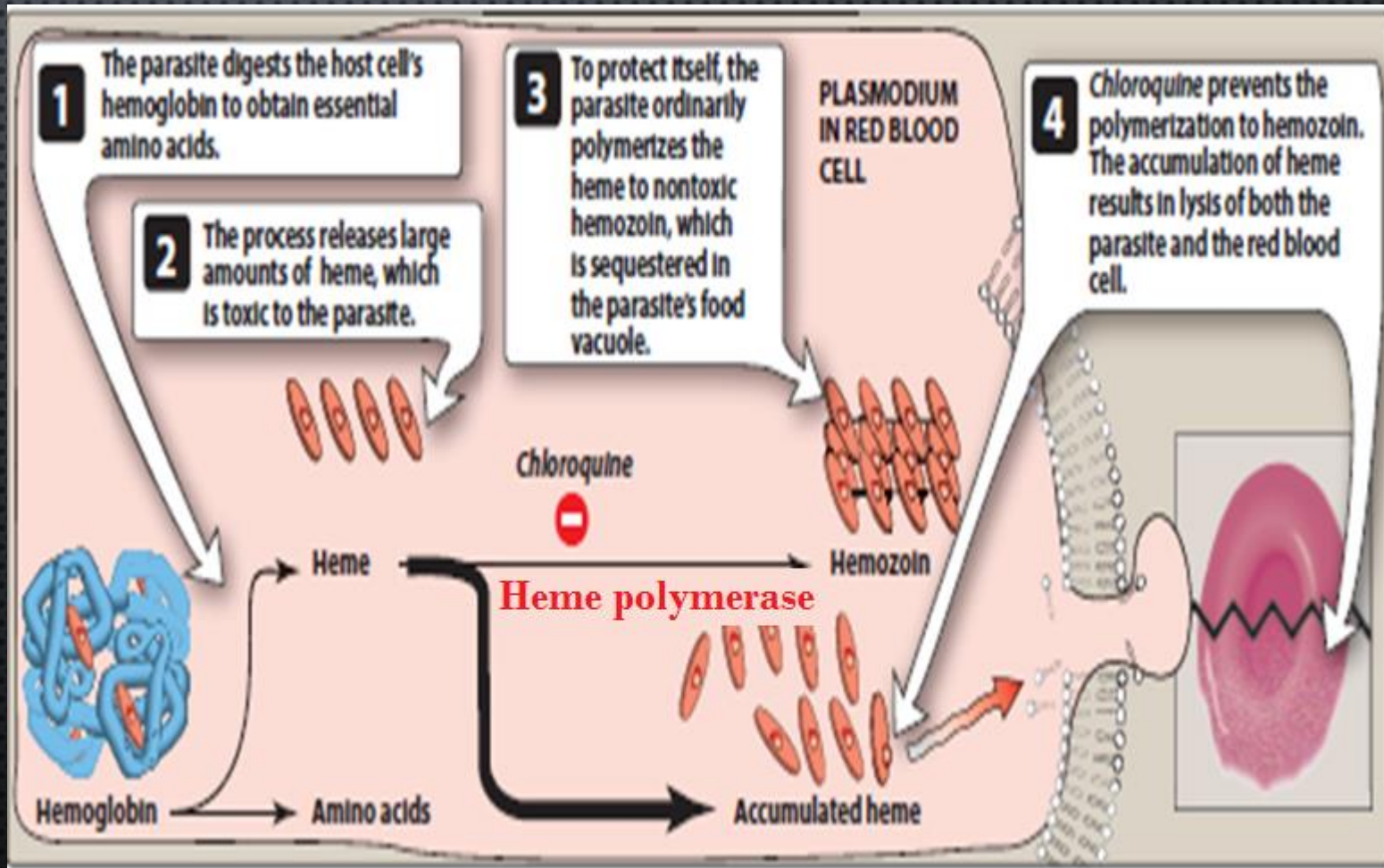
# CHLOROQUINE



## MECHANISM OF ACTION

Malaria Parasite digest host cell's Hb to obtain amino acids

Heme is released → Toxic  
So parasite detoxifies it by *heme polymerase* → Hemozoin (NonToxic) & traps it in food vacuole



# CHLOROQUINE



## ADRS

1. Mild headache and visual disturbances
2. Gastro-intestinal upsets; Nausea, vomiting
3. Pruritus, urticaria.

*Prolonged therapy*

*Ocular toxicity: Loss of accommodation, lenticular opacity, retinopathy*

Ototoxicity

Weight loss

Bolus injection → hypotension & dysrhythmias

Ⓢ Safe in pregnancy



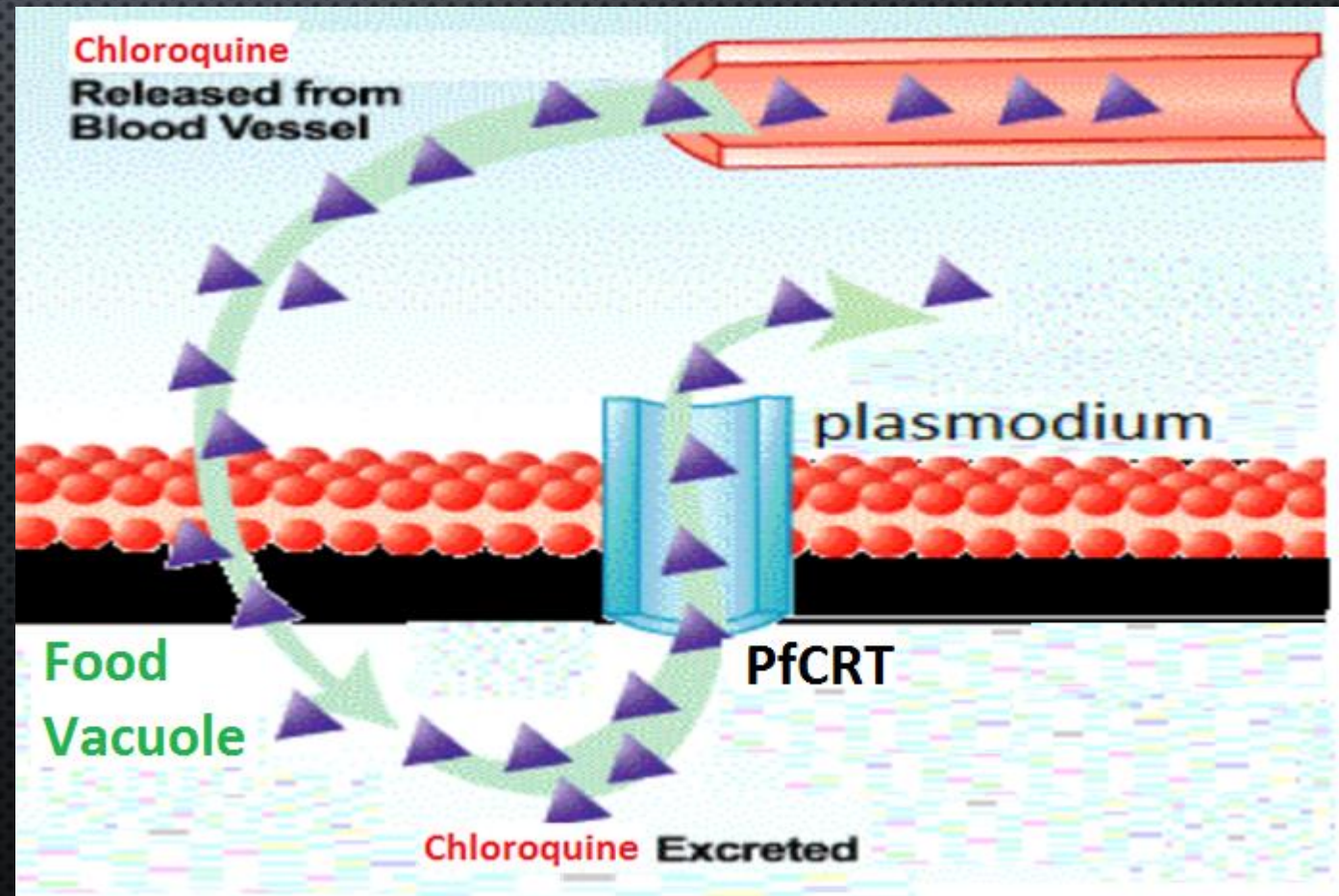
# CHLOROQUINE



## RESISTANCE

Resistance against the drug develops as a result of mutation of the chloroquine resistance transporter (PfCRT)

PfCRT enhances the efflux of chloroquine from the food vacuole





# CHLOROQUIN



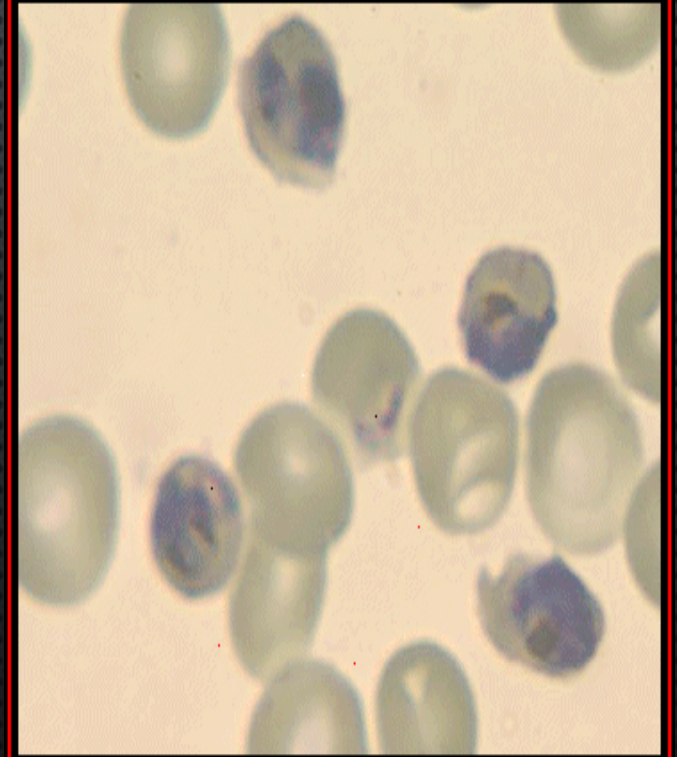
## THERAPEUTIC USES

Used to eradicate blood schizonts of *Plasmodium*

Hepatic amoebiasis

Rheumatoid arthritis

*Plasmodium falciparum*



(original image provided by Steve Aley)

# QUININE

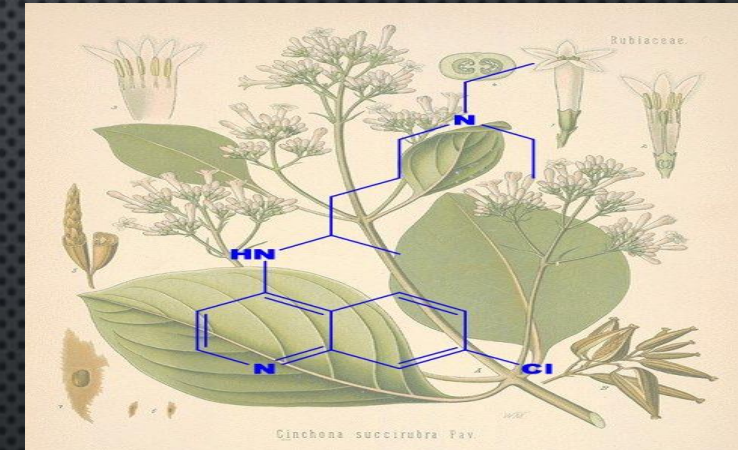


☉ The main alkaloid in cinchona bark

☉ Potent blood Schizontocide of all malarial parasites & weak gametocide for vivax & ovale

☉ Depresses the myocardium, reduce excitability & conductivity

☉ Mild analgesic, antipyretic, stimulation of uterine smooth muscle, curaremimetic effect



# QUININE

## PHARMACOKINETICS

⊙ Rapidly & completely absorbed from the GIT

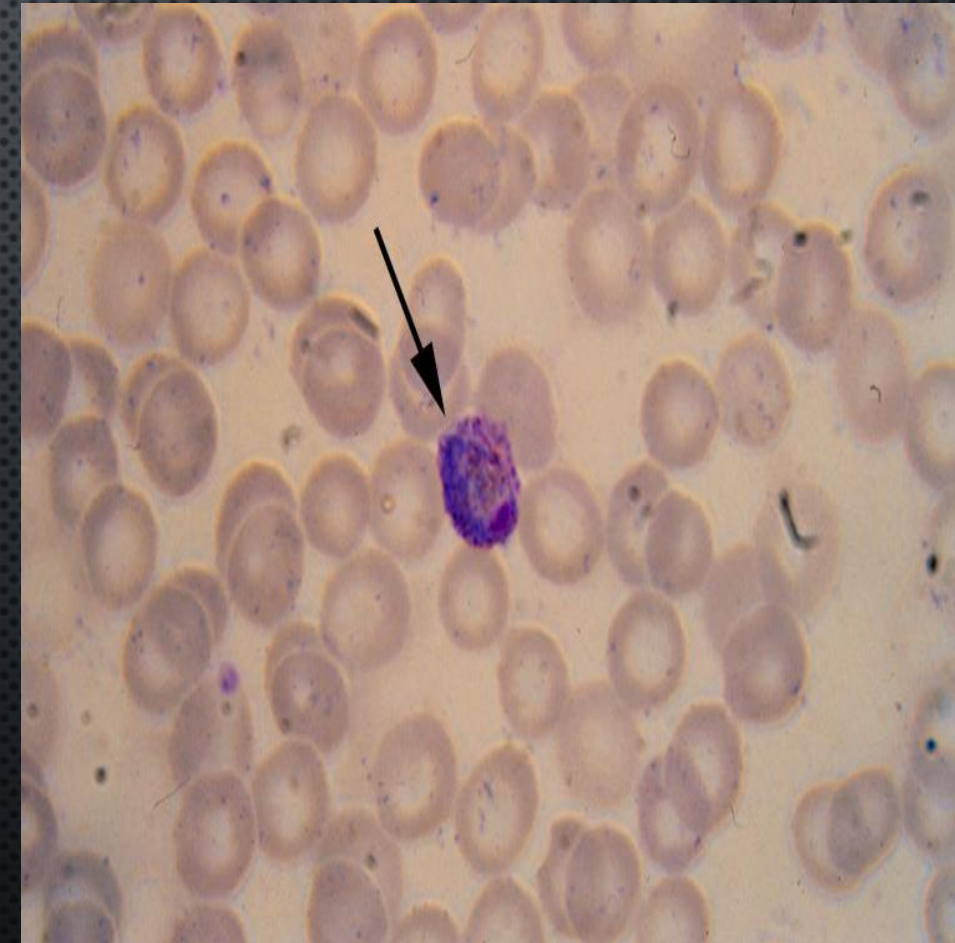
⊙ Peaks after 1-3 hours

⊙ Metabolized in the liver & excreted in urine

⊙ 5-20% excreted in the urine unchanged

⊙  $t_{1/2}$  = 10 hrs but longer in severe falciparum infection (18hrs)

Administered: orally in a 7 day course  
or by slow IV for severe *P. falciparum* infection



# QUININE

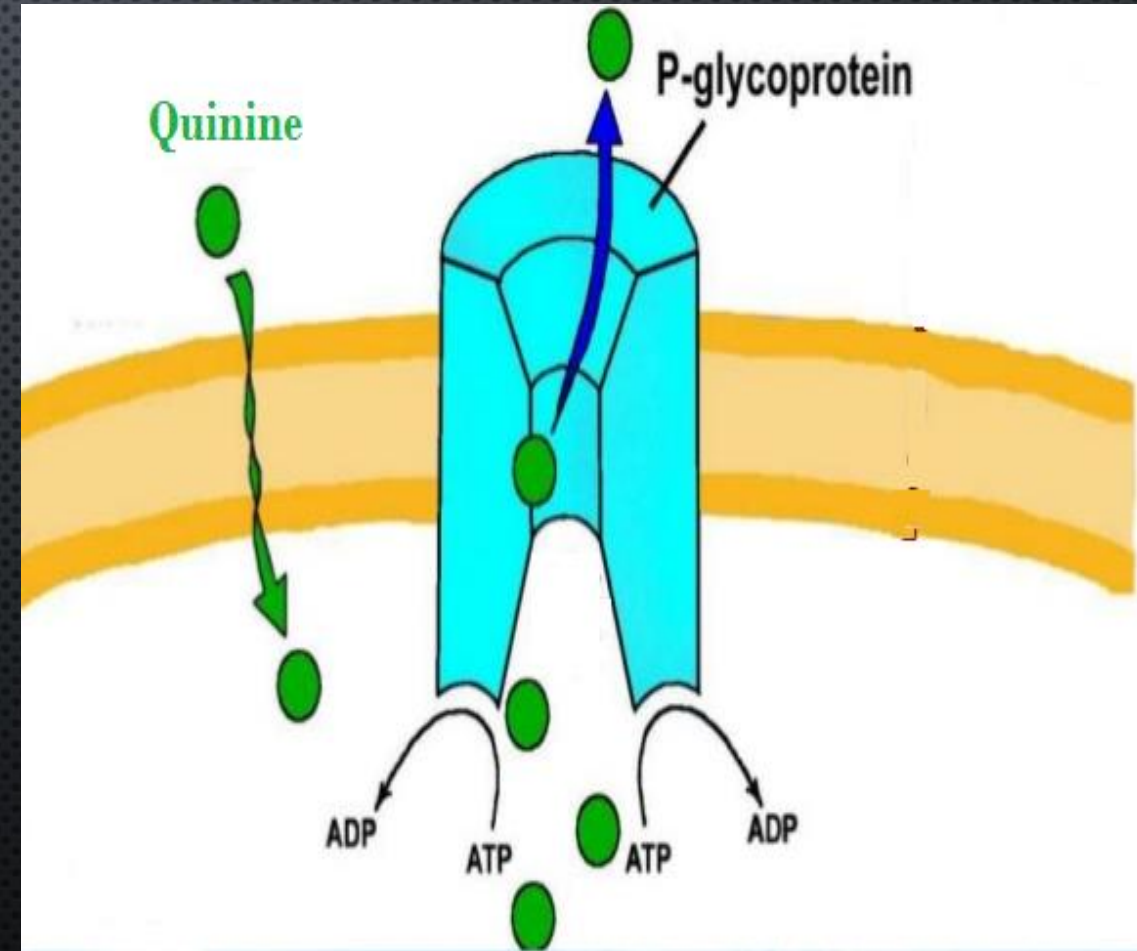


## MECHANISM

Same as chloroquine

## MECHANISM OF RESISTANCE

Like chloroquine by mutation of chloroquine resistance transporter, also increased expression of P-glycoprotein transporter



# QUININE



## ADRS

With therapeutic dose → poor compliance → bitter taste.

Higher doses →

⊗ Cinchonism → (*tinnitus, deafness, headaches, nausea & visual disturbances*)

⊗ Abdominal pain & diarrhea

⊗ Hypotension  
hypoglycemia

Rashes, fever, hypersensitivity reactions

⊗ Blood dyscrasia; anaemia, thrombocytopenic purpura & hemolytic anemia

⊗ Blackwater fever, a fatal condition in which acute haemolytic anaemia is associated with renal failure

IV → neurotoxicity → tremor of the lips and limbs, delirium, fits, stimulation followed by depression of respiration & coma

Safe



# QUININE

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

@Prolonged QT Interval

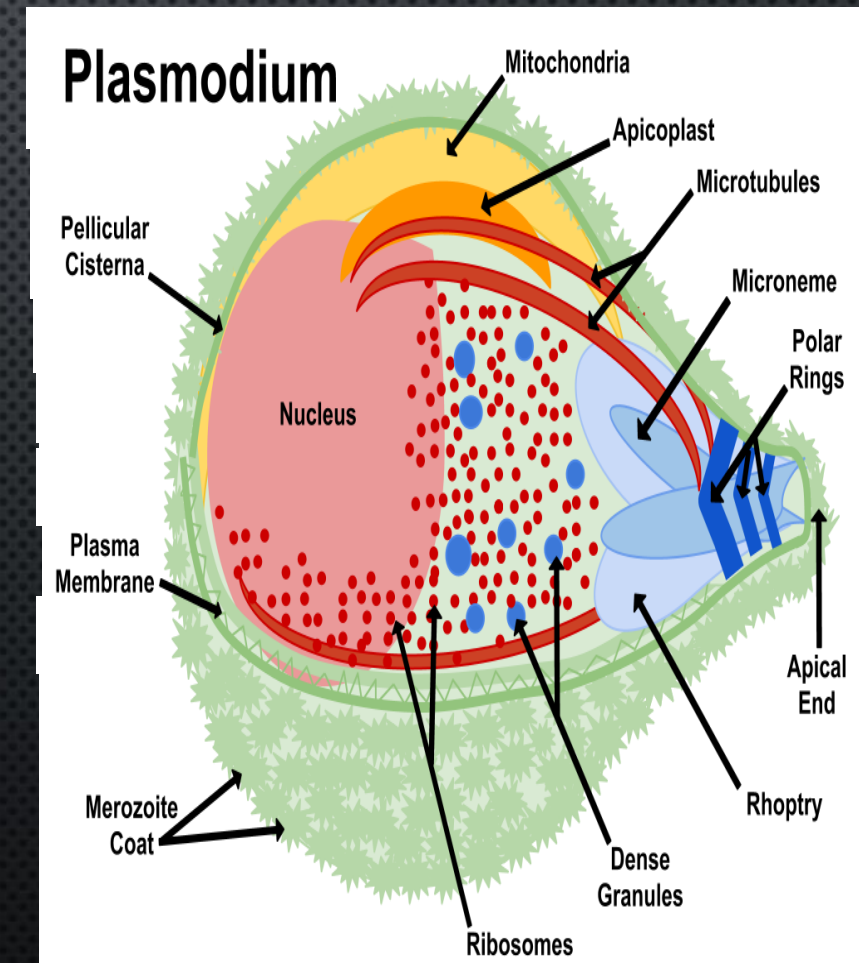
@Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency

Myasthenia Gravis

@Hypersensitivity

@Optic Neuritis, auditory problems

@Dose should be reduced in renal insufficiency



# QUININE

## CLINICAL USES

*Parenteral treatment of severe falciparum malaria*

*Oral treatment of falciparum malaria*

*Nocturnal leg cramps??*



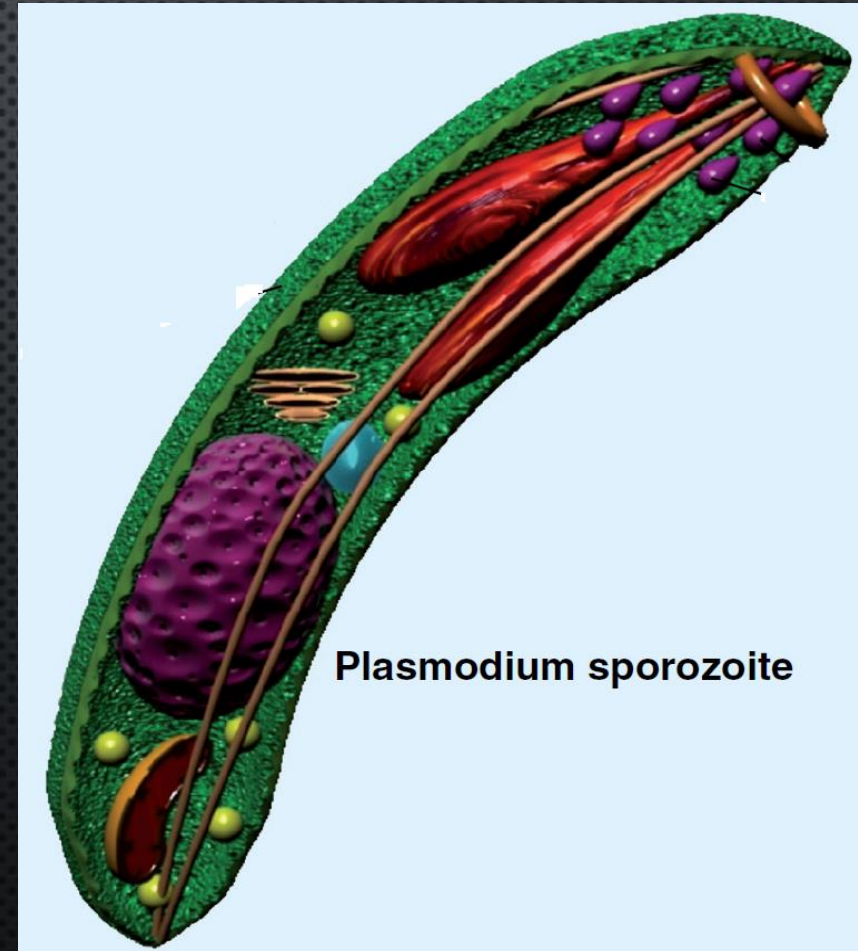
# QUININE

## DRUG INTERACTIONS

Antacids: Antacids containing aluminum &/or magnesium may delay or decrease absorption of quinine

Mefloquine

Quinine can raise plasma levels of warfarin and digoxin





# PRIMAQUINE

⊗ Hypnozoitocides → against liver hypnozoites & gametocytocide

*Radical cure of P. ovale & P. vivax*

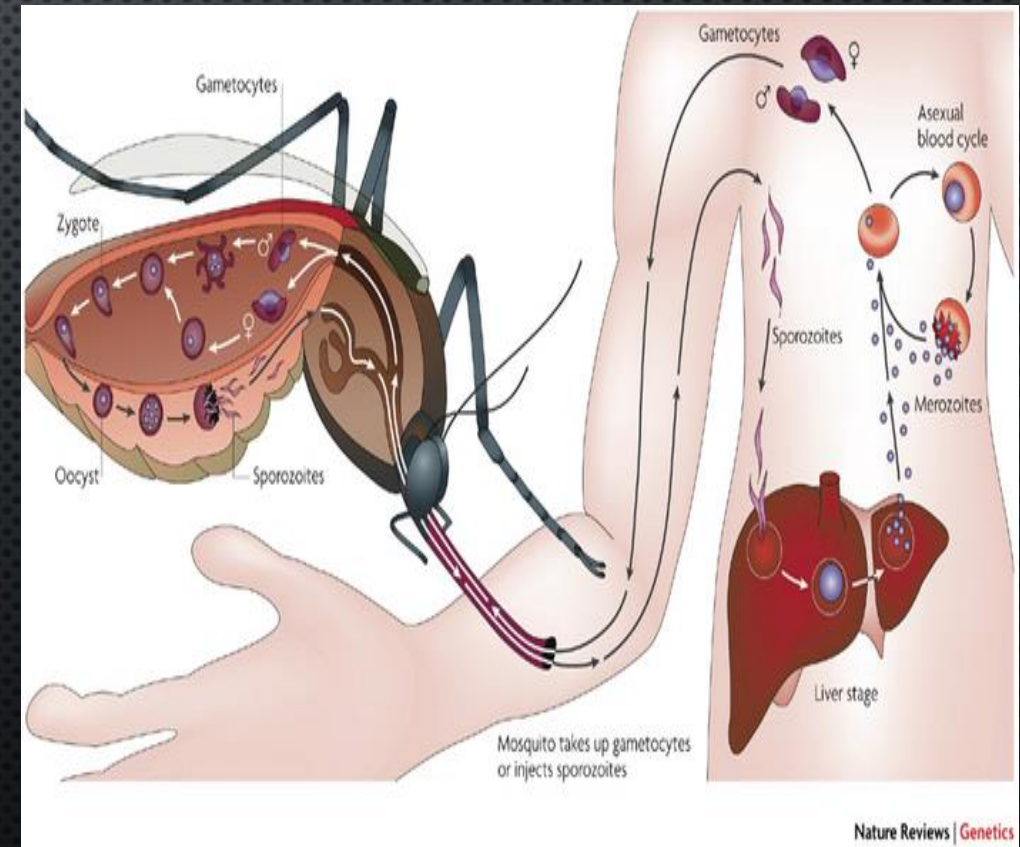
*Prevent spread of all forms*

## PHARMACOKINETICS

⊗ Well absorbed orally

⊗ Rapidly metabolized to etaquine & tafenoquine → more active

⊗  $t_{1/2}$  → 3-6h



# PRIMAQUINE



## MECHANISM

Not well understood. It may be acting by:-

⊙ Generating ROS → can damage lipids, proteins & nucleic acids

Interfering with the electron transport in the parasite → no energy

Inhibiting formation of transport vesicles → no food vacuoles

Resistance; → Rare when primaquine & chloroquine are combined

Primaquine

Converted to electrophiles

Generates reactive oxygen species

– Interferes with oxygen transport system

# PRIMAQUINE



## ADRS

At regular doses → patients with G-6-PD deficiency → hemolytic anemia.

⊙ Oxidation of primaquine produces free radicals

⊙ Free radicals will cause oxidative damage of RBCs → Hemolysis

⊙ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> oxidizes GSH

⊙ GSH

⊙ Maintains integrity of RBCs

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

H<sub>2</sub>O

GSSG



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# PRIMAQUINE



## CLINICAL USES

Radical cure of relapsing malaria,  
15mg/day for 14 days

In falciparum malaria: a single  
dose (45mg) to kill gametes &  
cut down transmission

Should be avoided in pregnancy (the fetus is  
relatively G6PD-deficient and thus at risk of  
hemolysis) & G6PD deficiency patients

G-6-PD NORMAL

15mg per day x 14

G-6-PD deficiency  
(Mild African form)

45mg per week for 8

G-6-PD deficiency  
(More severe Mediterranean  
variety)

30mg per week for 30  
weeks

the urine

Primaquine

# WHO TREATMENT GUIDELINES



IN VIVAX

IN FALICPARUM

All show Resistance

UNCOMPLICATED

ACT

COMPLICATED

IV Artesunate for 24 hrs followed by ACT  
Or Artemether + [Clindamycin / doxycycline]  
Or Quinine + [Clindamycin / doxycycline]



# WHO TREATMENT GUIDELINES



## IN FALICPARUM

## SPECIAL RISK GROUPS

Pregnancy; 1<sup>st</sup> trimester

Pregnancy; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester  
Lactating women  
Infants & young children

Quinine + Clindamycin (7 days)

ACT

# PROPHYLAXIS IN TRAVELLERS



## CDC RECOMENDATIONS

Chloroquine

Areas without resistant *P falciparum*

Mefloquine

Areas with chloroquine-resistant *P falciparum*

Doxycycline

Areas with multidrug-resistant *P falciparum*

Begin 1-2 weeks before departure (except for doxycycline 2 days) & continue for 4 weeks after leaving the endemic area