



# ANTIPROTOZOAL / ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

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# 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.



According to WHO:

212 million cases of malaria worldwide in 2015 & 429,000 deaths.

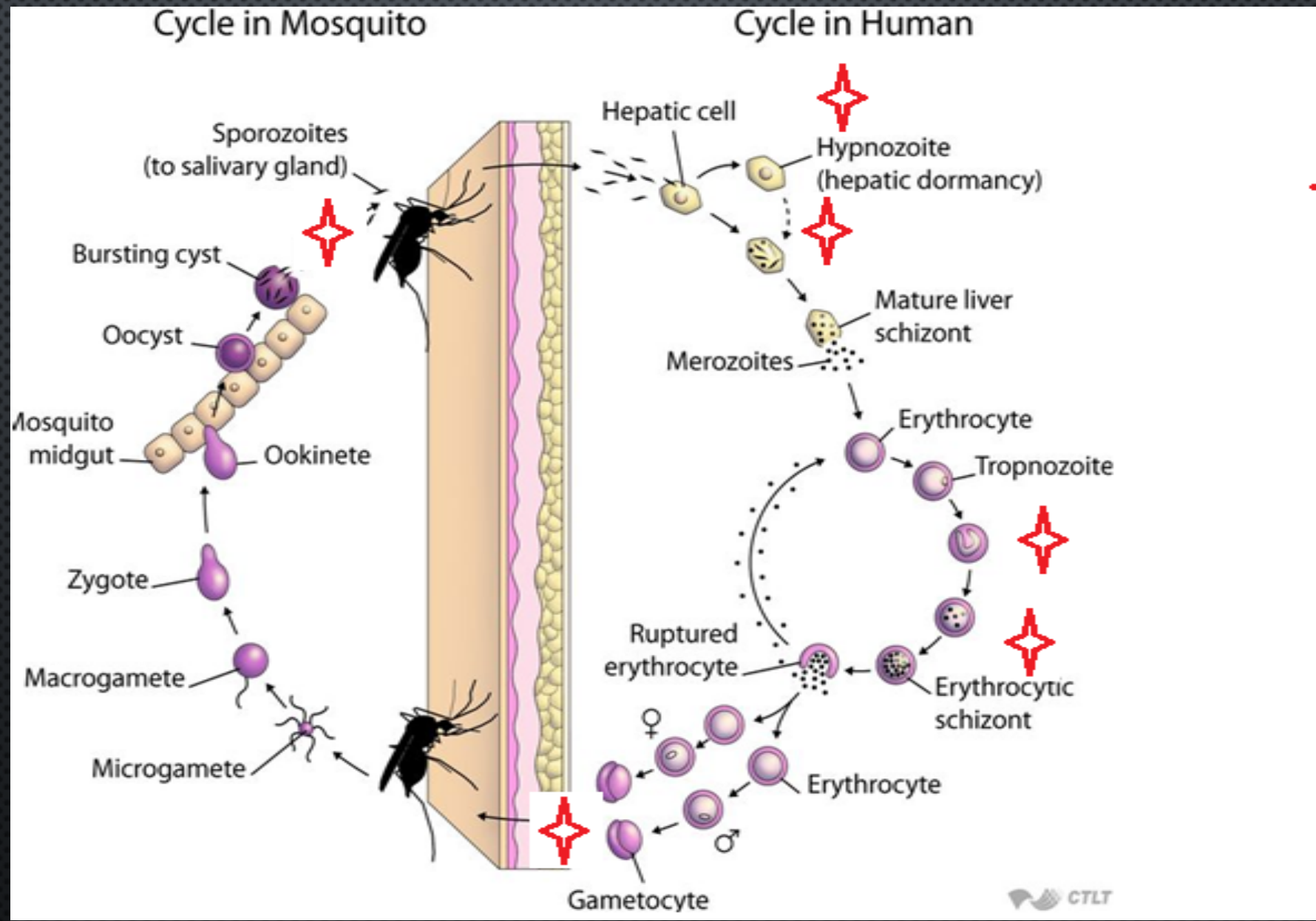
90% of malaria cases & deaths occur in **Africa**.

Children under 5 are most at risk.

**Four** species of plasmodium typically cause human malaria:

- *Plasmodium falciparum*,
- *P vivax*,
- *P malariae*, and
- *P ovale*.

# 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)

Gametocidal  
high efficacy

Slow acting  
low efficacy

Sporozoitocides

Eradicate all  
forms of vivax  
from the body

Destroys  
gametocytes  
& prevent  
transmission

Destroys  
sporozoites

Suppressive drug  
+ hypnozoitocidal

Chloroquine,  
quinine against  
vivax

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 after short-course therapy

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**.

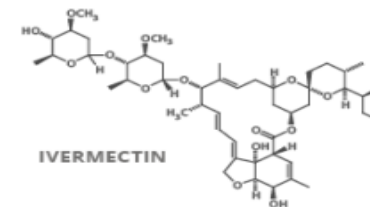


Youyou Tu is the first China-based scientist to win a Nobel Prize.



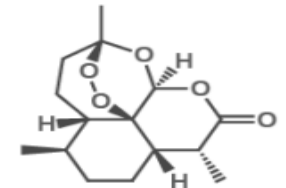
An ancient Chinese herbal remedy led to the isolation of artemisinin.

### AVERMECTINS



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

### ARTEMISININ



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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# PHARMAKOKINETICS

⊙ Rapidly biotransformed in liver into di-hydroartemesinin → active metabolite

⊙ Artemisinin, artesunate, artemether are **prodrugs**

⊙ Derivatives are rapidly absorbed orally & Widely distributed

Artemisinin  $t_{1/2}$  → 4 hrs

⊙ **Artesunate**  $t_{1/2}$  45 min (water-soluble; oral, IV, IM, rectal administration)

⊙ Artemether  $t_{1/2}$  4-11 hrs, (lipid-soluble; oral, IM, & rectal administration). Induce its own CYP-mediated metabolism → ↑<sub>8</sub> clearance 5 fold.



# ARTEMESININ & ITS DERIVATIVES

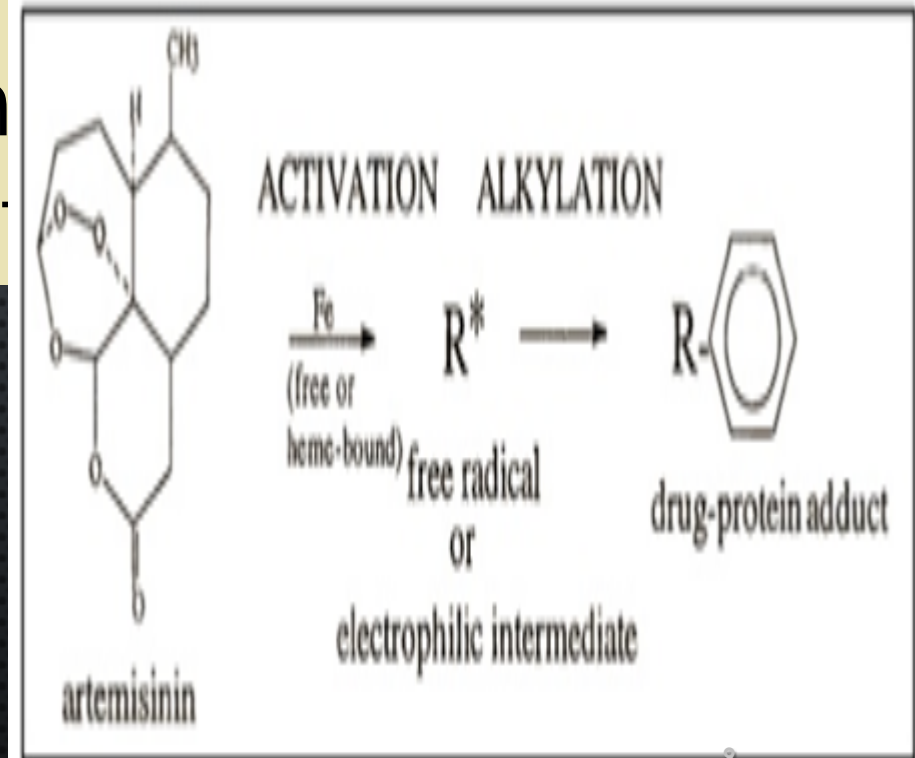
## MECHANISM

They have endoperoxide bridges  
Haem iron cleaves this bridge to yield carbon-centered free radicals in parasite, that will →

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

⊗ Irreversibly bind & inhibit sarco-endoplasmic reticulum **Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase** of the parasite, thereby inhibiting its growth

⊗ Inhibiting formation of **transport vesicles** → no food vacuoles.



# 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 drugs (Ex. mefloquine)

## PREPARATIONS

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

# ARTEMESININ

## PREPARATIONS

☉ Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs):

➤ Artemether + lumefantrine

➤ Artemether + amodiaquine

➤ Artemether + mefloquine

➤ Artemether + sulfadoxine- pyrimethamine.



# ARTEMESININ

## ADRs

⊙ Transient heart block

⊙ ↓ Neutrophil count (rare)

⊙ Brief episodes of fever

Resistance → was reported recently in Cambodia- Thailand border.



# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

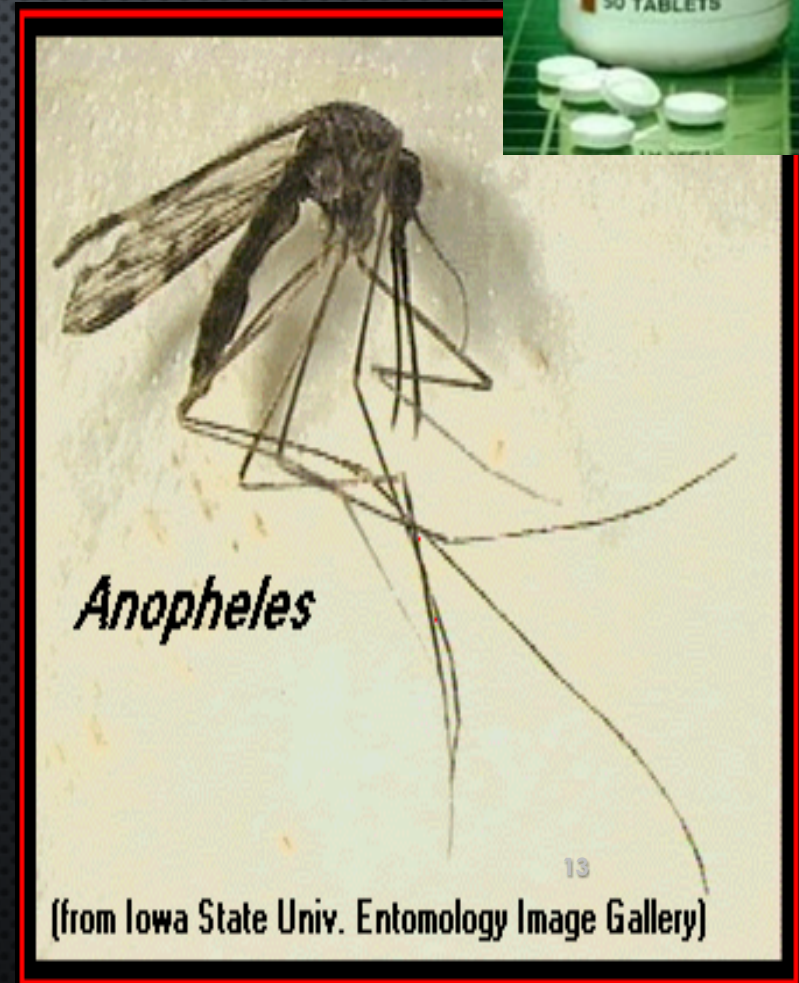
## CHLOROQUINE

Potent **blood** Schizontocide

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

Not active against tissue schizonts

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



# CHLOROQUINE

## PHARMACOKINETICS

- ⊙ Rapidly & completely absorbed from the GIT, given po
- ⊙ Has high volume of distribution (100-1000 L/kg); Released slowly from tissues & metabolized in liver

Concentrated into parasitized RBCs

- ⊙ Excreted in the urine 70% unchanged
- ⊙ Initial  $t_{1/2}$  = 2-3 days & terminal elimination  $t_{1/2}$  = 1-2 months.

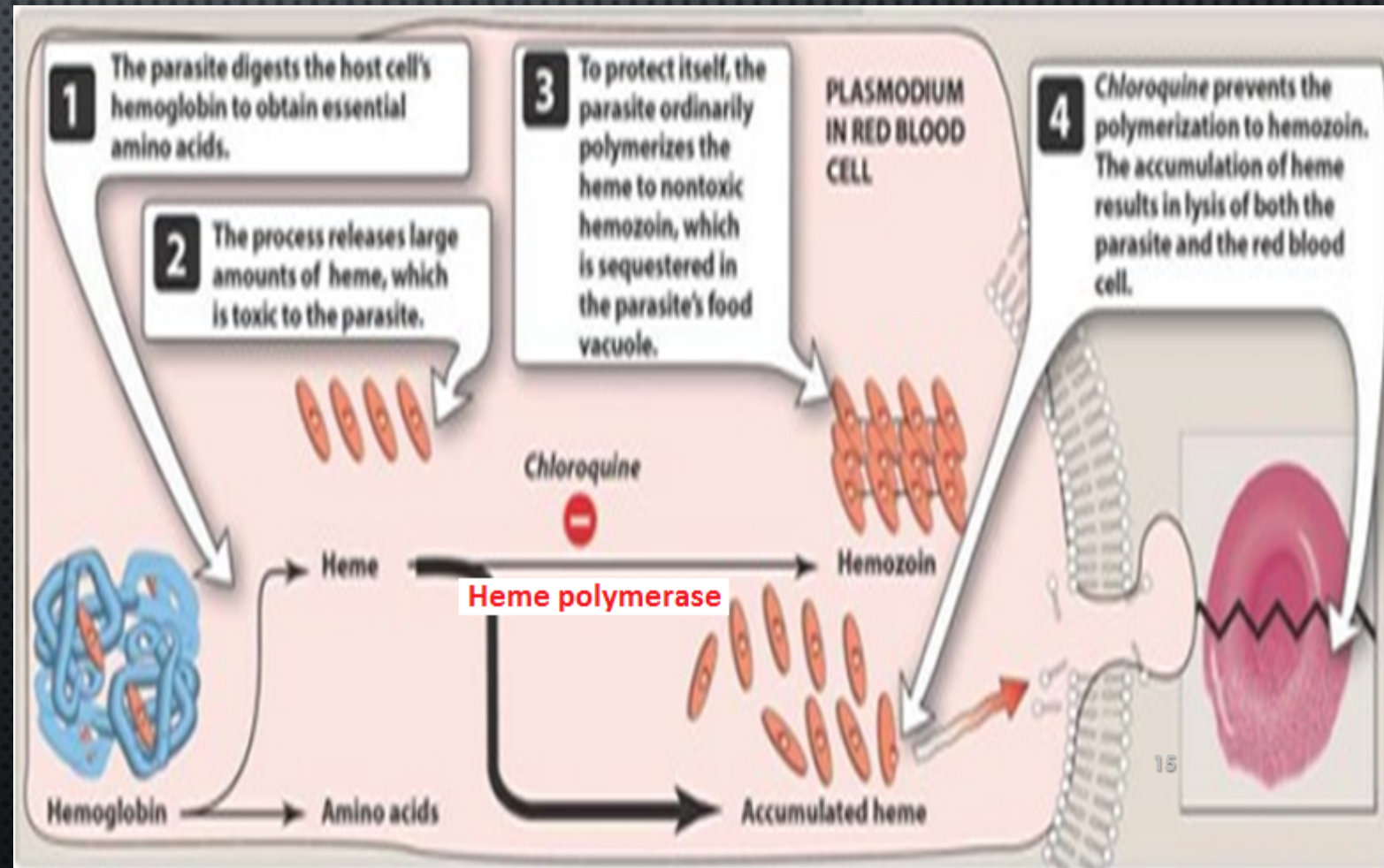


# CHLOROQUINE

## MECHANISM OF ACTION

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

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

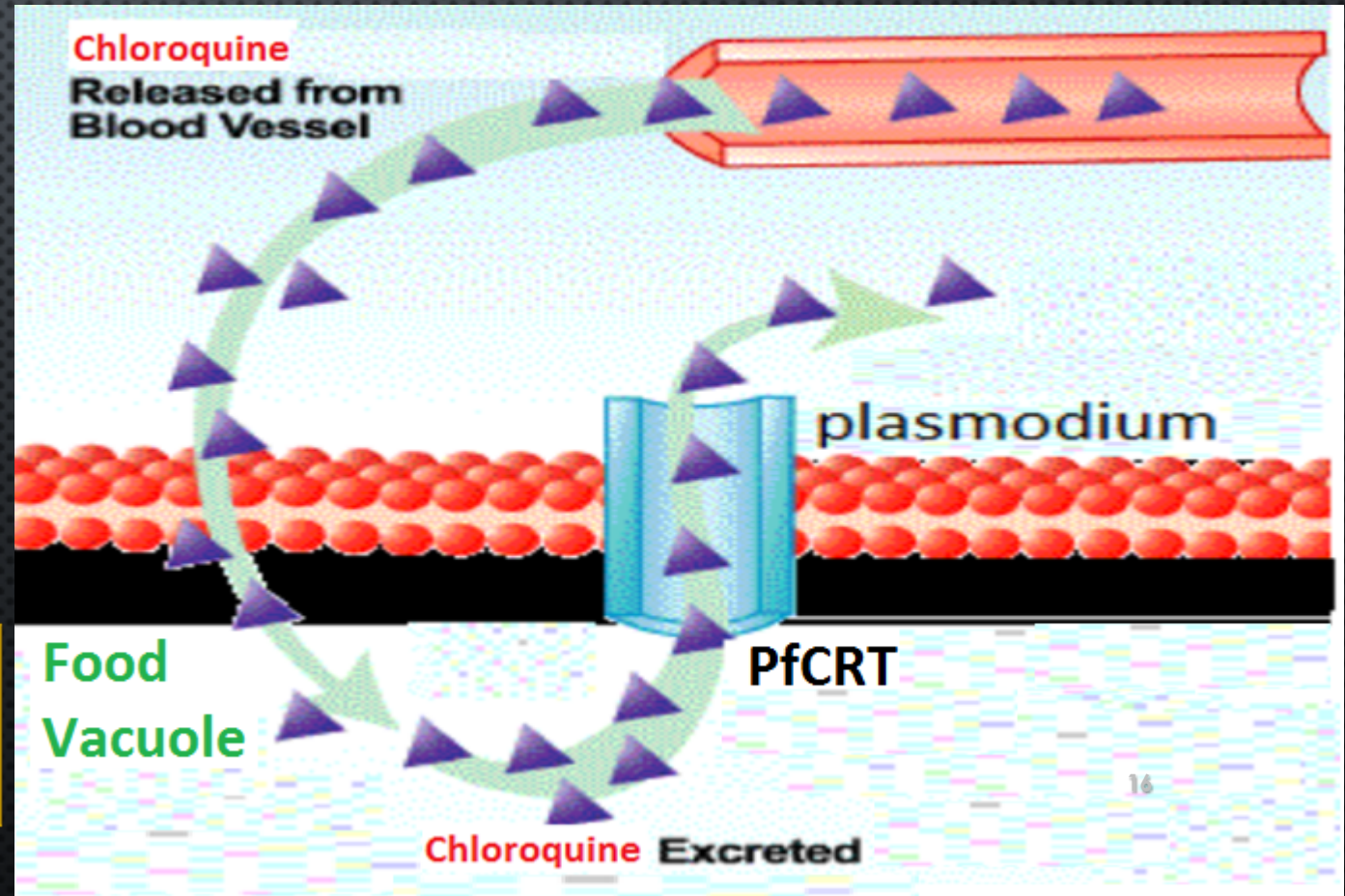


# CHLOROQUINE

## 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.





# CHLOROQUINE

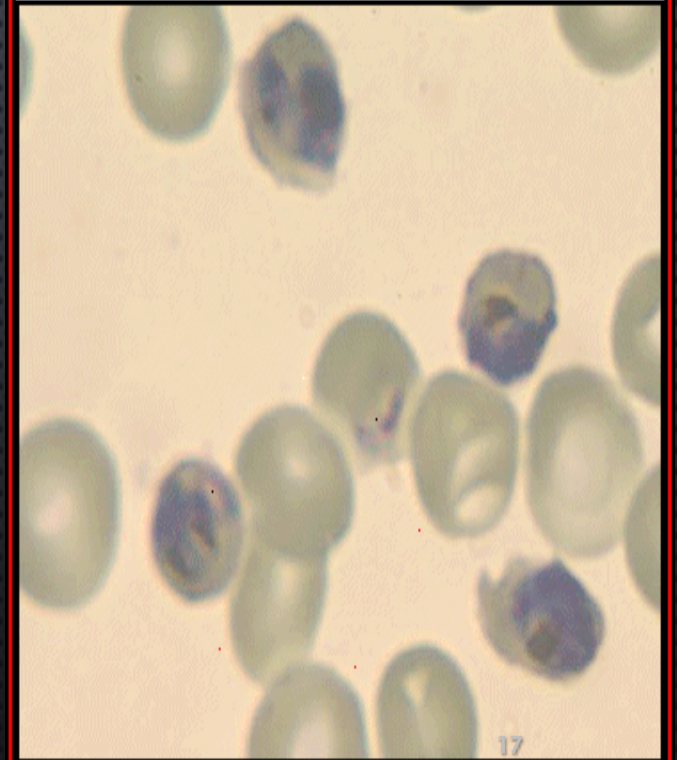
## THERAPEUTIC USES

Used to eradicate **blood** schizonts of *Plasmodium*. It is given in loading dose to rapidly achieve effective plasma conc.

Hepatic amebiasis

Rheumatoid arthritis.

*Plasmodium falciparum*



(original image provided by Steve Aley)

# CHLOROQUINE

## ADRS

1. Mild headache & visual disturbances
2. GIT upsets; Nausea, vomiting
3. Pruritus, urticaria.



## Prolonged therapy & high doses:

Ocular toxicity: Loss of accommodation, lenticular opacity, retinopathy

Ototoxicity  
Weight loss

Bolus injection → hypotension & dysrhythmias

Ⓢ Safe in pregnancy

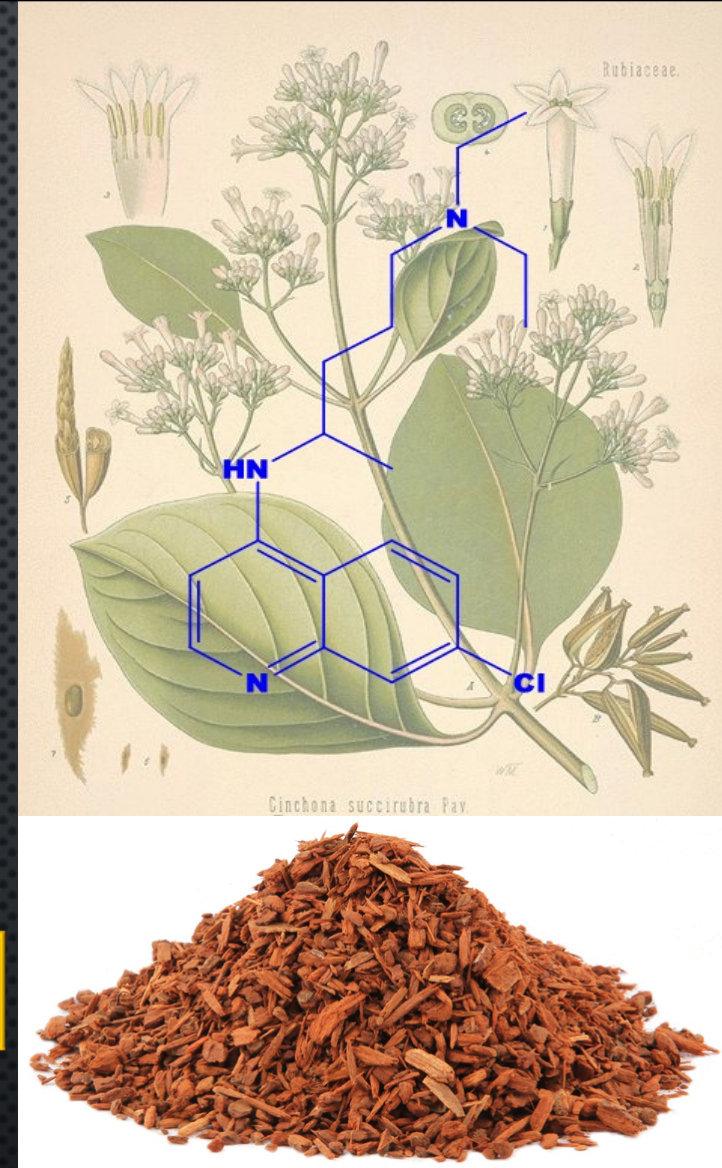
# QUININE

☉ The main alkaloid in cinchona bark

☉ Potent **blood Schizontocide** of ALL malarial parasites & **gametocide** for *P vivax* & *ovale* but not *falciparum*. It is **Not** active against liver stage parasites.

☉ Depresses the myocardium, reduce excitability & conductivity

☉ Mild analgesic, antipyretic, stimulation of uterine smooth muscle, curare mimetic 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 (18 hrs)

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

## CLINICAL USES:

- ✓ Parenteral treatment of **severe** falciparum malaria
- ✓ Oral treatment of falciparum malaria
- ✓ Nocturnal leg cramps.



# QUININE

## ADRS

With therapeutic dose → poor compliance → bitter taste

Higher doses →

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

⊗ Abdominal pain & diarrhea

⊗ Rashes, fever, hypersensitivity reactions

⊗ Hypotension & hypoglycemia

⊗ Blood dyscrasis; anaemia, thrombocytopenic purpura & hypoprothrombinemia (child)

⊗ Blackwater fever, a fatal condition in which acute haemolytic anaemia with renal failure due to a hypersensitivity reaction to the drug (ed)

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

Safe in pregnancy



# QUININE

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

⊙ Prolonged QT Interval

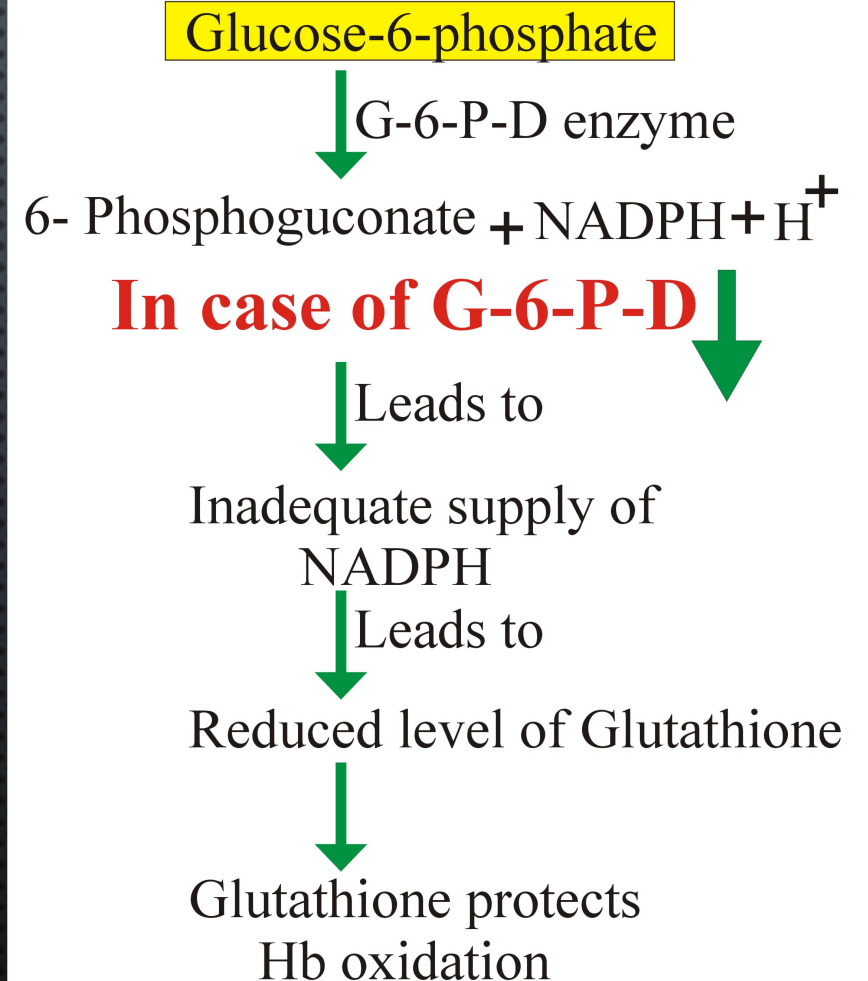
⊙ Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase deficiency

⊙ Myasthenia Gravis

⊙ Hypersensitivity

⊙ Optic Neuritis, auditory problems

⊙ Dose should be reduced in renal insufficiency.





# QUININE

## DRUG INTERACTIONS

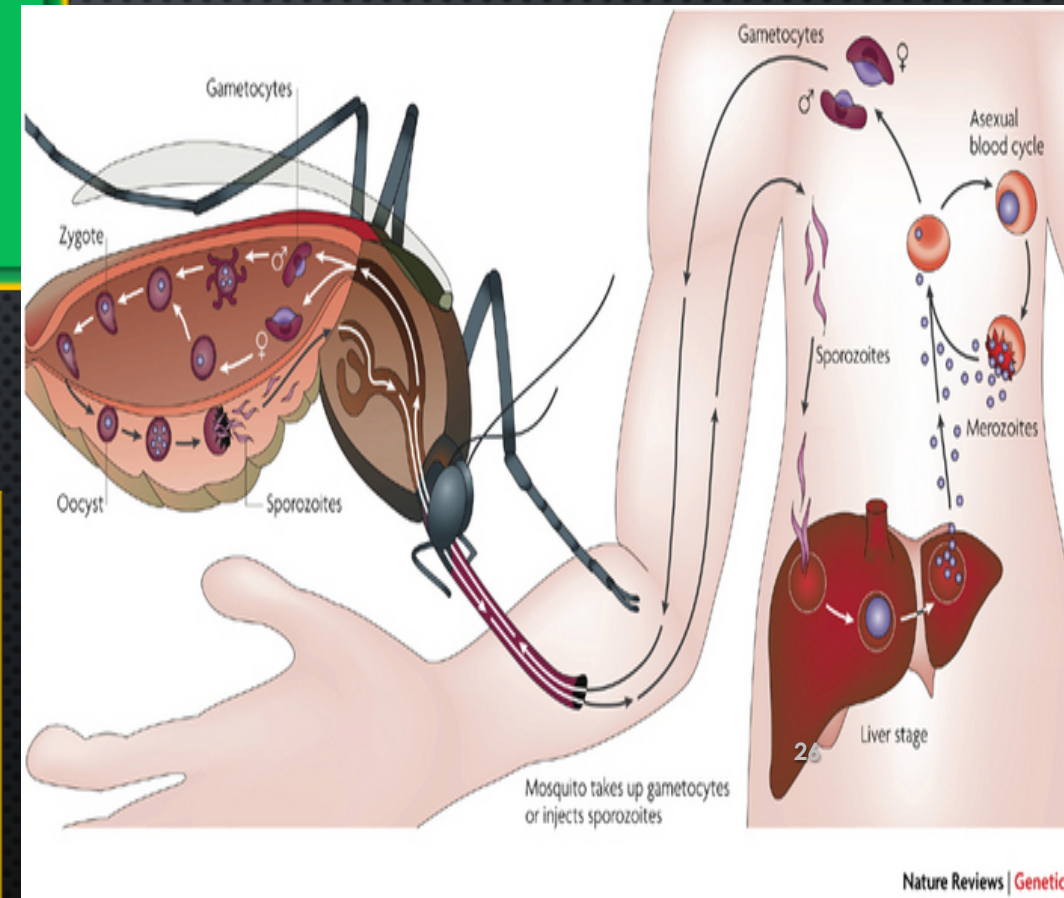
- Antacids: Antacids containing aluminum &/or magnesium may delay or decrease absorption of quinine
- Mefloquine
- Quinine can raise plasma levels of warfarin & digoxin.

# PRIMAQUINE

- ⦿ Hypnozoitocides against **liver** hypnozoites & gametocytocides against the 4 human malaria species
- ⦿ Radical cure of *P. ovale* & *P. vivax*
- ⦿ Prevent spread of ALL forms (chemoprophylaxis)

## PHARMACOKINETICS

- ⦿ Well absorbed orally
- ⦿ Rapidly metabolized to etaquine & tafenoquine  
➔ more active forms
- ⦿  $t_{1/2}$  ➔ 3-6 h.



# PRIMAQUINE

## MECHANISM

Not well understood, It may be acting by:-

- ⊙ Generating ROS → can damage lipids, proteins & nucleic acids in the parasite
- ⊙ Interfering with the electron transport → 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

# ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS

## PRIMAQUINE

### CLINICAL USES

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

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

Should be avoided in pregnancy (the fetus is  
relatively G6PD-deficient & 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

# 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



⊙ Maintains integrity of RBCs

# WHO TREATMENT GUIDELINES

In *P vivax*

In *P falciparum*

All show Resistance

loroquinone for 7 days

**RESISTANT**

ACT / 3 days followed by  
Primaquine for 14 days

**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

Quinine + Clindamycin (7 days)

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

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.



A collection of various mosquito species, including some with vibrant colors like red, green, and blue, set against a dark, textured background. The mosquitoes are shown in various poses, some with their wings spread and others with their proboscis extended. The overall scene is illuminated to highlight the intricate details of the insects.

**THANK U...!**