ANTIMICROBIALS - I

ANTIMALARIAL DRUG THERAPY

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Abstract: *Malaria is a major worldwide problem and a public health problem of developing countries like India. It is caused by intracellular Plasmodium protozoa transmitted to humans by the bite of female Anopheles mosquitos. Malaria is caused by four species of the genus P.vivax, P.falciparum, P.ovale, P.malariae and the fifth species P.knowlesi primarily an animal pathogen reported to cause malaria in South-East Asia especially, Borneo. The diagnosis is confirmed by identification of the organism in stained peripheral blood smear and treated by antimalarial drugs as per the situation.*

Keywords: *Plasmodium infection, Treatment, Prophylaxis, Antimalarials.*

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Points to Remember

- ***Treatment regimens have been decided keeping the drug resistance pattern in that particular geographic area.***
- ***For uncomplicated vivax malaria chloroquine plus primaquine is effective.***
- ***Antimalarial drug combinations are now the recommended modality of treatment for P.falciparum infection.***
- ***The following ACTs are presently use, Artesunate (AS) + Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SP), Artesunate + Mefloquine (MQ), Artemether + Lumefantrine.***
- ***Artemether + Lumefantrine is the only form available as oral preparation and is well tolerated and effective against multidrug-resistant falciparum malaria.***

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