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A randomised, open study to assess the safety and efficacy of a new artesunate-mefloquine coformulation with an equivalent dose regimen of the individual drugs for the treatment of acute uncomplicated falciparum malaria (Thailand)

Submission date
15/04/2005

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
07/06/2005

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
28/03/2017

Condition category
Infections and Infestations

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Malaria is a serious tropical disease caused by a parasite spread by mosquitoes. Malaria has become increasingly difficult to treat over the last 50 years. The reason is that the parasite is able to adapt and become resistant to antimalarial drugs. In response to this problem the approach to treating malaria has changed. Combinations of drugs are used to reduce the chance of resistance developing. At first malaria patients were given the different treatments as separate tablets. This meant there was still a chance that patients might take one of the treatments without the other, especially if one had more side-effects. Increasingly more combined treatments have been developed with both drugs present in a single tablet. The aim of this study is to compare a new combined tablet containing two antimalarial drugs (artesunate and mefloquine) with the same drugs given as loose tablets for the treatment of malaria.

Who can participate?
Adults and children with malaria

What does the study involve?
Participants are randomly allocated to receive either received the new combined tablet or the separate tablets for 3 days as treatment for their malaria. Participants are seen daily for 3 days when they are given the treatment under supervision and then weekly for 9 weeks when blood samples are taken to see if they have been cured of their malaria.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Not provided at time of registration

Where is the study run from?
Clinics of the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (Thailand)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
July 2004 to October 2005

Who is funding the study?
1. Wellcome Trust (UK)
2. Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative (Switzerland)
3. European Commission (Belgium)

Who is the main contact?
Prof. Nicholas J White
nickw@tropmedres.ac

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Prof Nicholas J White

Contact details
Wellcome Unit
Faculty of Tropical Medicine
420/6 Rajvithi Road
Bangkok
Thailand
10400
+66 (0)2 3549172
nickw@tropmedres.ac

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
RPC084

Study information

Scientific Title
A randomised, open study to assess the safety and efficacy of a new artesunate-mefloquine coformulation with an equivalent dose regimen of the individual drugs for the treatment of acute uncomplicated falciparum malaria (Thailand)

Study objectives
The aim of this trial is to measure the efficacy of a new fixed dose combination of mefloquine and artesunate for the treatment of acute uncomplicated malaria in adults and children and compare this to the efficacy of the loose tablets. The tolerability and safety of the new treatment will also be assessed and pharmacokinetic data will be collected.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Institutional Review Boards of:
1. Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Thailand, 20/02/2004
2. Oxford Tropical Research Ethics Committee (OXTREC), Oxford University, UK, 04/08/2004
3. Secretariat Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (SCRIHS), World Health Organization (WHO), July 2004

Study design
Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Study type(s)
Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Malaria

Interventions
Fixed dose coformulation (intervention):
Once a day for three days - target dose of mefloquine is 8 mg/kg/day and for artesunate is 4 mg /kg/day using paediatric tablets 25/50 mg artesunate/mefloquine, or adult tablets 100/200 mg artesunate/mefloquine.

Non fixed tablets/standard dose (control):
Artesunate 12 mg/kg split as 4 mg/kg/day for three days and mefloquine 25 mg/kg split as 15 mg /kg/day and 10 mg/kg/day on second and third days of treatment.

Intervention Type
Drug

Phase
Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)
Artesunate-mefloquine

Primary outcome(s)
1. Parasitological cure
2. Adverse effects

Key secondary outcome(s))
1. Tolerability and safety of drugs defined as incidence of adverse events within 28 days of follow up
2. Haematological recovery during 63 days of follow up
3. Incidence of Plasmodium vivax infection during 63 days of follow up

4. Prevalence of gametocytaemia during 63 days of follow up
5. Description of population pharmacokinetic profile of mefloquine and artesunate during 63 days of follow up

Completion date
01/10/2005

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Age more than six months, either sex
2. Minimum weight of 5 kg
3. Microscopically confirmed mono or mixed infection of P. falciparum (asexual falciparum parasitaemia more than 5/500 White Blood Cell [WBC] count)
4. History of fever or presence of fever (tympanic or axillary temperature more than 37.5°C)
5. Written informed consent to participate in trial

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. Pregnancy or lactation
2. P. falciparum asexual stage parasitaemia more than 4% red blood cells (175,000/µL)
3. Clinical features of severe malaria: impaired consciousness, inability to drink or breast feed, convulsions during the present illness, prostration, severe anaemia, respiratory distress, shock, spontaneous bleeding, acute haemolysis with haemoglobinuria
4. Other significant illnesses or signs e.g. severe jaundice, liver disease, renal disease, severe malnutrition
5. Recent ingestion of mefloquine within previous 60 days
6. Contraindications to mefloquine - history of convulsions and/or neuropsychiatric illnesses
7. Known hypersensitivity to artemisinins or mefloquine
8. Splenectomy

Date of first enrolment
28/07/2004

Date of final enrolment
01/08/2005

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Thailand

Study participating centre
Faculty of Tropical Medicine
Bangkok
Thailand
10400

Sponsor information

Organisation
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) (Switzerland)

ROR
https://ror.org/022mz6y25

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Wellcome Trust

Alternative Name(s)

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
International organizations

Location
United Kingdom

Funder Name
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) (Switzerland)

Funder Name
European Commission (Belgium) (INCO-Dev programme) (project number: ICA4-2001 10193)

Alternative Name(s)
European Union, Comisión Europea, Europäische Kommission, EU-Kommissionen, Euroopa Komisjoni, EC, EU

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/11/2006		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes