

Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine combinations study

Submission date 06/04/2005	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 22/07/2005	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 19/10/2016	Condition category Infections and Infestations	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Malaria is a serious tropical disease caused by a parasite that is spread by mosquitoes. Antimalarial medication is used to prevent and treat malaria. However, resistance to antimalarial drugs can develop when genetic mutations allow the parasite to survive in the presence of the drug. The development of resistance is of huge public health concern. In Malawi, sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (SDX-PYM) replaced chloroquine (CQ) in 1993 as the first-line treatment for uncomplicated malaria because of high levels of CQ resistance. However, SDX-PYM resistance is increasing. Combination treatment with two or more drugs working by different mechanisms is proposed as a means to delay the development of resistance. Combination treatments containing artemisinin (ART) are proposed as ideal for this purpose because they kill malaria parasites very rapidly and no resistance had been reported at the time of this study. There is also evidence supporting the possible use of a non-ART combination treatment as a possible alternative. Since CQ was withdrawn in 1993 there has been evidence suggesting a possible return of CQ sensitivity. Amodiaquine (AQ) in combination with SDX-PYM has been shown to be effective and well tolerated in Uganda in an area of high-level CQ resistance. This issue is of huge public health importance as combinations of CQ or AQ plus SDX-PYM would be considerably more affordable compared to ART combination treatment. The aims of this study are:

1. To compare the effectiveness of different antimalarial combination treatments
2. To compare the development of resistance when using these different treatments
3. To investigate what happens to the drugs after they are taken – their absorption and how fast they are eliminated from the body

Who can participate?

Children aged between 1 and 5 with uncomplicated malaria

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to receive one of four treatment combinations:

1. SDX-PYM (single oral dose) and placebo (dummy drug)
2. SDX-PYM (single oral dose) + CQ (once daily for 3 days)
3. SDX-PYM (single oral dose) + Artesunate (once daily for 3 days)
4. SDX-PYM (single oral dose) + AQ (once daily for 3 days)

Participants are followed up for 42 days to assess their response to treatment and the development of resistance or side effects.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The treatments offered all contain SDX-PYM, the standard treatment for malaria in Malawi, plus an additional medicine – placebo, CQ, AQ or ART. Apart from the placebo, all of these treatments are expected to improve the cure rates for the children. Participation in the study involves additional blood tests for all the children and additional visits to the clinic. These may be an inconvenience for the children and mothers, but do provide a higher level of care than is otherwise available.

Where is the study run from?

Chileka Health Centre (Malawi)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

September 2003 to March 2006

Who is funding the study?

Wellcome Trust (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr David Bell

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Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Dr David Bell

Contact details

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

066681

Study information

Scientific Title

Evaluating strategies to delay the emergence of resistance to antimalarial drugs

Acronym

SP Combinations Study

Study objectives

Compared to sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine monotherapy, the addition of chloroquine or amodiaquine or artesunate results in:

1. Improved clinical and parasitological outcomes at 14, 28 and 42 days
2. Decreased selection of resistance mutations
3. Clinical failures that cannot be explained by the parasite genotype have a pharmacokinetic basis

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

1. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Research Ethics Committee, 02/03/2002, ref: 01.72
2. University of Malawi, College of Medicine Research Ethics Committee, 05/08/2002, ref: P.01/02/140

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Uncomplicated malaria

Interventions

Four armed, blinded, randomised trial comparing:

1. SP (single oral dose) and placebo
2. SP (single oral dose) and chloroquine (once daily for 3 days)
3. SP (single oral dose) and amodiaquine (once daily for 3 days)
4. SP (single oral dose) and artesunate (once daily for 3 days)

Total duration of follow up in study was 42 days for all participants.

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine, chloroquine, amodiaquine, artesunate

Primary outcome(s)

1. World Health Organization (WHO) treatment response endpoints on days 14, 28 and 42
2. Selection of Dihydrofolate Reductase (DHFR) and Dihydropteroate Synthetase (DHPS) resistance associated genotypes
3. Fever clearance time
4. Parasite clearance time
5. Change in haemoglobin between day zero to 14
6. Gametocyte prevalence on day seven or 14
7. Adverse events clinical and laboratory

Key secondary outcome(s))

No secondary outcome measures

Completion date

15/03/2006

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Age more than or equal to 12 and less than 60 months, either sex
2. Weight more than or equal to 6 kg
3. Pure (on microscopic grounds) *P. falciparum* parasitaemia of 2000 to 200,000 ul
4. Written consent has been obtained from the parent or legal guardian

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Lower age limit

12 months

Upper age limit

60 months

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Severe malaria
2. Antimalarials in previous week
3. Other concomitant infection at time of presentation
4. Allergy to sulphonamides
5. Involvement in the study in the previous 12 months

Date of first enrolment

01/09/2003

Date of final enrolment

01/02/2006

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Malawi

Study participating centre

Wellcome Trust Tropical Centre

Liverpool

United Kingdom

L69 3GF

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Liverpool (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/04xs57h96>

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

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	13/02/2008		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes