

The Suppression of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* Parasitemias by a  
Diformyldiaminodiphenyl Sulfone—Pyrimethamine Combination

Principal Investigator: Eliot J. Pearlman, MAJ, MC

Associate Investigators: Withoon Thiemanun  
Ben F. Castaneda, SFC

**OBJECTIVE:** To study the effectiveness of the combination of diformyldiaminodiphenyl sulfone (DFD) 200 mg and pyrimethamine (Py) 12.5 mg in suppressing parasitemias in an area with known chloroquine resistant falciparum malaria.

**BACKGROUND:** The combination of dapsone (DDS) and pyrimethamine (Py) in the chemosuppression of chloroquine resistant falciparum malaria has been previously shown to be efficacious. The longer half life of the diformyl congener of dapsone should render this sulfone in combination with pyrimethamine a better chemosuppressive agent.

**DESCRIPTION:** Six hundred and seventy-four semi-immune study subjects from three villages in Prachinburi Province, Northeast Thailand were assigned to one of five drug study groups. Subjects received a weekly medication, under a double blind design, of one of the following:

- (a) DFD 200 mg and Py 12.5 mg
- (b) DFD 400 mg
- (c) DDS 100 mg and Py 12.5 mg
- (d) Py 25 mg
- (e) Placebo

Each study subject was visited weekly, at which time the medication was given and swallowed under supervision, a capillary blood drawn for a thick-thin malaria smear, and a history of illness since the prior visit noted.

**PROGRESS:** The twenty-six week course of medication was concluded on 9 February 1974. Currently the study subjects are being monitored monthly for evidence of malaria transmission in the absence of chemosuppressive agents. Until the termination of medication the average weekly study subject participation was approximately 88%. As the first slide reading has not been completed, no data reduction is possible at this time.

**SUMMARY:** The combination of DFD and Py has been given weekly for 26 weeks to semi-immune individuals in an area known to have chloroquine resistant falciparum malaria. The results of this study are not yet available.