

TREATMENT OF THE ACUTE ATTACK OF MALARIA CAUSED BY  
*Plasmodium falciparum*: RESULTS OF TREATMENT  
WITH A COMBINATION OF QUININE AND  
TETRACYCLINE

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OBJECTIVE : To determine the effect of several therapeutic regimens upon *P. falciparum* asexual parasitemia in naturally infected humans.

BACKGROUND : In Thailand, *P. falciparum* has long been resistant to the 4-aminoquinolines, is becoming increasingly resistant to quinine, and within the last 3 years has become resistant to Fansidar. Various combinations of quinine and tetracycline were tested in the early 1970's and were effective (1-4). It was decided to re-examine the effectiveness of this combination against the current, more resistant strains of *P. falciparum*.

METHODS : This study is being carried out as a companion effort to that dealing with mefloquine treatment of falciparum malaria the results of which are described elsewhere in this annual report. The conditions and methods of patient selection are described in that section.

RESULTS : Between July 1980 and March 1981, soldiers of the 1st Division, 1st Army Area, Royal Thai Army who presented with malaria at the medical treatment center in Sa Kaeo were treated with either quinine alone (650 mg. tid x 10 days) or quinine at the same dose for 7 days plus tetracycline started concurrently at a dose of 250 mg. qid for 10 days. Twenty-seven patients treated with quinine alone completed the 28 day follow-up period, with a cure rate of 63% (17/27). The 10 treatment failures all showed an RI pattern of resistance. Fifty-six patients treated with the quinine tetracycline combination completed the 28 day follow-up period with a cure rate of 96% (54/56). The 2 treatment failures were both classified as RI. A further 26 patients were treated with a 7 day course of quinine-tetracycline and all were cured.

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