

TREATMENT OF THE ACUTE ATTACK OF MALARIA CAUSED BY
Plasmodium vivax: RESULTS WITH MEFLOQUINE
 AND CHLOROQUINE

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OBJECTIVE : To determine the effect of mefloquine and chloroquine upon *P. vivax* asexual parasitemia in naturally affected humans.

BACKGROUND : This study is an adjunct to the *P. falciparum* study at the Phrabuddabat hospital and was included to monitor the effectiveness of these two regimens in the treatment of *P. vivax*.

METHODS : Patients with *P. vivax* malaria were treated with one of the following three regimens :

1. Mefloquine - 1500 mg single dose
2. Chloroquine - 1500 mg over three days
3. Chloroquine - 1500 mg over three days
 plus primaquine 15 mg QD x 5 days

Study subjects were followed for 28 days.

RESULTS : Thirty-nine patients completed the 28 day follow-up and all were cured (Table 1). There were no statistically significant differences in parasite clearance time (PCT) or fever clearance time (FCT).

Table 1. Initial parasitemia, parasite clearance time (PCT) and fever clearance time (FCT) in patients with vivax malaria treated with either mefloquine, chloroquine or chloroquine plus primaquine (C + P).

Treatment	# Case	Initial Parasitemia	PCT	FCT
Mefloquine	14	7410 ± 8885*	59 ± 17	28 ± 17
Chloroquine	11	4711 ± 4720	58 ± 20	33 ± 13
C + P	14	7859 ± 7249	50 ± 19	28 ± 10

* Results expressed as mean ± 1 standard deviation