

TREATMENT OF THE ACUTE ATTACK OF MALARIA CAUSED BY
Plasmodium falciparum: RESULTS WITH
FANSIDAR TREATMENT

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

BACKGROUND : Falciparum malaria is becoming increasingly resistant to Fansidar (sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine) in Thailand. In studies last year at the AFRIMS study sites in Chantaburi and Phrabuddabat, Fansidar had cure rates of 9% (3/33) for the 2 tablet dose and 19% (6/31) for the 3 tablet dose. Most of the resistant cases were classified RII. The study was continued at the Phrabuddabat site to further evaluate the 3 tablet regimen.

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 : Eight patients were treated with 3 tablets of Fansidar between 25 September 1980 and 21 April 1981, when this regimen was stopped. Two patients had an RI response and six had an RII response. None were cured. However, in all eight cases there was a significant reduction of parasitemia and alleviation of symptoms. Mean fever clearance time was 71 hours.