

### Life Cycle

Has 2 hosts: vertebrate (**intermediate**) and mosquito (**definitive**)

Definitive Host: Intermediate  
Sporulating Host: Asexual  
Cycle (Sporogony) Cycle (Schizogony)

### EXO-ERYTHROCYTIC CYCLE

1. Anopheles mosquito (definitive host), inoculates **sporozoites** into human host (intermediate)

Sporozoites are the infective stage to man

2. Sporozoites infect **liver parenchymal cells** and mature into **schizonts**, which produce merozoites

*P. vivax* and *P. ovale* assume a dormant stage (**hypnozoites**), and can persist in the liver

3. Infected cell ruptures and releases **merozoites**

### ERYTHROCYTIC CYCLE

4. Merozoites infect **RBCs** and become **trophozoites** (ring stage)

Merozoites are the infective stage for RBCs

### Life Cycle (cont)

5. Trophozoites mature into **schizonts**, which rupture and release **merozoites**

Some differentiate into **gametocytes**, which are ingested by the mosquito looking for a blood meal

6. Ruptured schizonts are responsible for the **clinical manifestations** of the disease

### SPOROGENIC CYCLE

7. The **gametocytes** are ingested by an anopheles mosquito and make their way into the **stomach** of the mosquito

8. While in the stomach, the **microgametes** (male) penetrate the **macrogametes** (female), which generate **zygotes**

Microgametocyte exflagellates and produces 8 sperm-like microgametes

9. The zygotes become **motile** and **elongated**

These are called **ookinetes**

10. The ookinetes invade the **midgut wall** of the mosquito, where they develop into **oozysts**

### Life Cycle (cont)

11. The **oozysts** grow, rupture, and release **sporozoites**, which makes their way into the **salivary glands** of the mosquito

12. Inoculation of the sporozoites into a new human host perpetuates the malaria life cycle

The **merozoite** recognizes a **specific receptor site** on the **RBC** and exposes several organelles for attachment. The red cells becomes **deformed** and the merozoite enters through an invagination of the RBC membrane

For *P. vivax*, the receptor site on the RBC is associated with the *Duffy Blood Group Antigen*. **Over 90% of Africans are Duffy Negative** and are **resistant** to Vivax Malaria

### Pathogenicity and Virulence

Pathological process is the result of **erythrocytic cycle**

#### 1. Hemolysis

RBC invasion by merozoites induces changes in **cytoskeleton** and decreases in **deformability**

### Pathogenicity and Virulence (cont)

**Increased capillary permeability**, which allows fluid to lead into surrounding tissues, causing congestion in blood vessels and **tissue infarction and necrosis**

#### 2. Liberation of Metabolites

Rupture of RBCs bring on **malarial paroxysm** and **increased hemosiderin** in the **liver, spleen**, and other organs, which become **black** in color



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### Pathogenicity and Virulence (cont)

Lysis of cells & phagocytosis of cell remnants, debris, and hemozoin congest the **kupffer cells** of the liver, resulting in **hepatosplenomegaly**. Tears of splenic capsule may occur due to trauma or coughing & may require surgery

### 3. Immunologic Response

Antigens of *P. falciparum* induces **cytokines**, which stimulate the release of **TNF** or **Cachexin**, which causes **fever, paroxysms, HA, pains, and prostration**

### Pathogenicity and Virulence (cont)

**TNF** produces **neurologic symptoms**, which play a role in **cerebral malaria**

Repeated attacks of malaria produce **anemia**

**Immune complexes** are formed and may be deposited in the **kidney**

### 4. Formation of Malarial Pigment

In infected RBC, **Hgb** is **digested** forming the pigment **hemozoin**, which can get deposited to various organs

Hemozoin formation **depletes iron stores**, which leads to **anemia**

### VIRULENCE FACTORS

**Knobs** develop for **adhesion** to parasitized and non-parasitized cells and platelets

### Pathogenicity and Virulence (cont)

*P. falciparum* **erythrocyte membrane Pr1 (PfEMP1)** is the **most adhesive protein** among the knobs

Knobs contain **Histidine-Rich Pr (HRP)**

In *Falciparum*, **cytoadherence** causes plugging of **small vessels** by masses of parasitized RBCs and RBCs sticking to **endothelium** causing: **ischemia of the brain, heart, kidney, lungs, and GIT**

### PREFERENCE

**Vivax and Ovale** Only reticulocytes and young RBC

**Malariae** Senescent cells

### Pathogenicity and Virulence (cont)

infections with these 3 parasites (*vivax*, *ovale*, and *malariae*) limits number of RBCs that can be parasitized to less than 3% of all erythrocytes

<b>Falciparum and Knowlesi</b>	All ages of RBC
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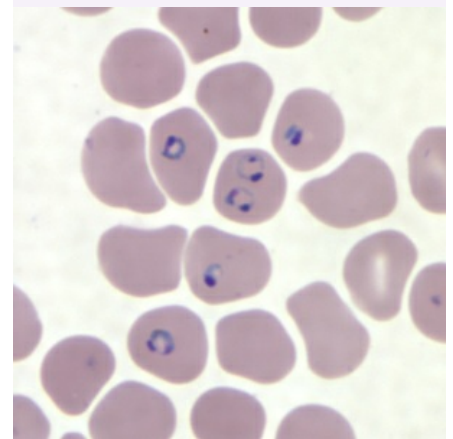
Results in increased parasitemia, early anemia, and increased severity of complications and mortality

### Morphology

#### Ring Form (Early Trophozoite)

Earliest stage after invasion of RBC. The ring has a dot-like nucleus of <b>red chromatin</b>	<i>Falciparum</i> ring: <b>headphone type</b> with a <b>double chromatin dot</b> .
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#### Plasmodium Falciparum Ring Form



Headphone type is also seen in *P. knowlesi*



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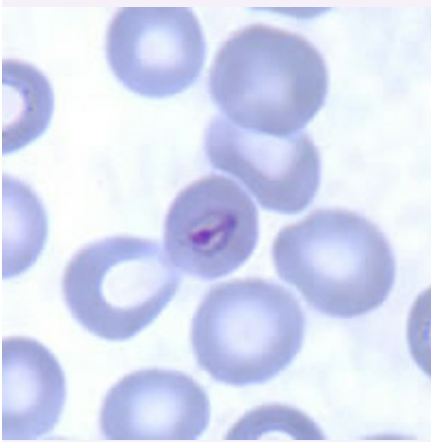
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### Plasmodium Malariae Bird's Eye Ring Form



### Mature Trophozoites

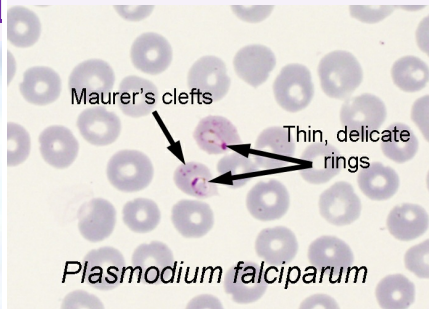
The erythrocyte hemoglobin is metabolized to produce a darkly staining pigment **hemozoin**

**Maurer's Clefts:** *P. falciparum* infections containing older ring-form trophozoites and asexual stages

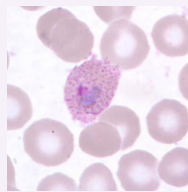
**Schüffner's Dots:** seen in *P. vivax* and *P. ovale*

Parasite nutrition is hemoglobin and the metabolite is hemozoin or hemozine

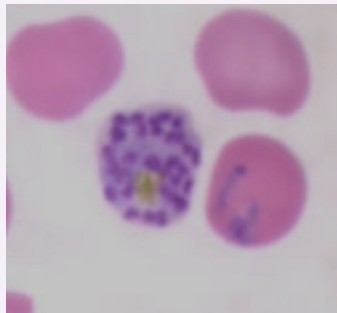
### Maurer's Clefts



### Schüffner's Dots



### Schizont



When parasite divides and shows multiple masses of **nuclear chromatin**. Mature schizonts contain **merozoites**.

Rarely seen in peripheral blood of *P. falciparum* except in severe infections

*P. falciparum* schizonts stay in capillaries of organs and muscles. If schizont **spills into general circulation**, indicates **bad prognosis**

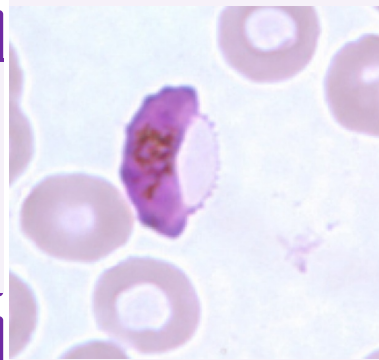
### Gametocytes

Sexual form ingested by the mosquito (**infective stage for mosquito**)

**Macrogametocyte:** nucleus is **dense and compact**

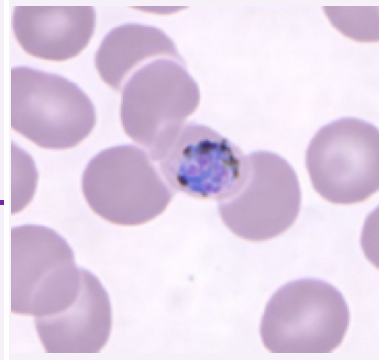
**Microgametocyte:** nucleus is a **pale, loose network**

### Falciparum Gametocyte



Banana shaped

### Knowlesi Gametocyte



Gametocytes of **vivax, ovale, malariae**, and **knowlesi** are similar, except that **malariae** is **smaller** and **darker**

### Diagnosis

#### MICROSCOPIC IDENTIFICATION

Gold standard

Specimens can be taken any time

**Giemsa stain** is preferred for visualization of certain structures (ex. Maurer's Clefts)

If high degree of synchrony exist, late developmental stages can be demonstrated in the repeated smears every 4-6hrs (**not recommended for falciparum**)

Repeated testing is not recommended if parasites are not found initially

Blood smears are obtained to monitor response to treatment

**Thick Film:**  
reveals if  
parasite is  
**present** and  
is most  
efficient  
method of  
detection

**Thin Film:**  
**identifica-**  
**tion** of  
species

**MALARIAL**  
**RDT**



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### Diagnosis (cont)

Uses Immunochromatography to detect Plasmodium specific antigens in a finger prick blood sample

Antigens utilized are: HRP II, pLDH, Plasmodium Aldolase

**HRP II:** produced by **trophozoites** and young **gametocytes** of *P. falciparum*

**pLDH:** produced by both **sexual and asexual** stages, and can distinguish between falciparum and non-falciparum. Sensitive for severe malaria

**Plasmodium Aldolase:** PA + HRP II = PMA which has 90% specificity and can be performed in 30 minutes

**SEROLOGY** Cannot differentiate past from current infection

Indirect Hemagglutination (IHA)

### Diagnosis (cont)

Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test (IFAT)

ELISA

**PCR** low parasitemia or mixed infection

### Plasmodium Falciparum

#### MALIGNANT TERTIAN MALARIA

Also known as subtertian or Aestivoautumnal Malaria

**Deadliest species** of plasmodium

Causes **50%** of all malaria cases

Erythrocytic cycle of **48hrs**

Found in tropics, subtropics, and sub saharan Africa

Infected cell is **same size** as normal RBC

Associated with the development of **Burkitt's Lymphoma**

#### RING-FORM TROPHOZOITES

**Headphone Type:** Rings may possess 1 or 2 chromatin dots

### Plasmodium Falciparum (cont)

They may be found on the **periphery** of the RBC (**accolé, appliqué**) and **multiply-infected RBCs** may be seen.

Usually **no enlargement** of infected RBC

**Maurer's Clefts:** can be seen in infections w/ older ring-form trophozoites, and resembles **the Schüffner's dots** but are **larger** and **coarser**

#### DEVELOPING AND OLDER TROPHOZOITES

Remain in ring-form, but may become **thicker and more compact**

Amount of **pigment** and **chromatin** may also **increase**

#### SCHIZONTS

Schizogony **DOES NOT** take place in the **peripheral blood**, but in **capillaries** of **organs** and **muscles**.

The only stages seen in peripheral blood are **rings** and **gametocytes**

Contain anywhere from **8-24 merozoites**

### Plasmodium Falciparum (cont)

Mature schizont usually fills 2/3 of infected RBC

#### GAMETOCYTES

**Crescent** or **sausage** or **banana** shaped

Pigment is **more coarse and concentrated** in **macrogametocyte** than microgametocyte

**Laveran's Bib:** remnants of host RBC

### Plasmodium Ovale

#### OVALE MALARIA

Has an erythrocytic cycle of **48hrs**

Has a **hypnozoite** stage in the liver, which is the cause of relapse

Infected RBC is **slightly enlarged** compared to normal RBC

Found in Tropical Africa, West Africa, South America, and Asia

#### RING-FORM TROPHOZOITES

Contains **single chromatin dot**. Difficult to differentiate from vivax.



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### Plasmodium Ovale (cont)

**Multiply-Infected** RBC may be seen

#### MATURE TROPHOZOITES

As trophozoite matures, infected RBCs may exhibit **fimbriation** and **Schüffner's dots**

#### SCHIZONTS

Similar to *P. vivax*, though tend to contain fewer merozoites (**4-16, on average 8**)

Elongation to an **oval shape** and **fimbriation** are common

**Schüffner's dots** can be observed with proper staining

#### GAMETOCYTES

Difficult to distinguish from *P. vivax*

**Slight enlargement of infected RBC**

### Plasmodium Vivax

#### BENIGN TERTIAN MALARIA

Erythrocytic cycle of **48 hours**

### Plasmodium Vivax (cont)

**Hypnozoite**: persistent dormant stage in the liver, which is the cause of **relapse**

**Predominant** malarial species

Infected **RBC** is **enlarged** due to affinity for **young RBCs or reticulocytes**

#### RING-FORM TROPHOZOITES

Has a **thick cytoplasm w/ single, large chromatin dot**. Difficult to distinguish from *P. ovale*

Cytoplasm becomes **ameboid** and **Schüffner's dots** may appear as trophozoites mature

#### LATE TROPHOZOITES

Developing trophozoites become **amoeboid**, with **pseudopodial processes** and **large vacuoles**. Schüffner's dots are visible with proper staining

**band-form** appearance of trophozoite may occur

May be mistaken for *P. Malariae* or *P. knowlesi*

### Plasmodium Vivax (cont)

#### SCHIZONTS

Pigment is organized in **1-2 clumps**

Mature schizonts contain **12-24 merozoites**, each of which contains a **dot of chromatin** and a **mass of cytoplasm**

#### GAMETOCYTE

**Macrogametocyte**: **round to oval** and usually fill host cell. Infected RBC is larger and **cytoplasm** is usually a **darker blue** with **fine brown pigments** throughout

**Microgametocyte**: usually the size of an **uninfected RBC** and has a **paler blue, pink or grey cytoplasm**

### Plasmodium Knowlesi

#### KNOWLESI MALARIA

Vector is ***A. balabacensis* & *A. maculatus***

Primate malaria in macaques in South East Asia

Infects **ALL** stages of **RBC**, and causes **severe malaria**

### Plasmodium Knowlesi (cont)

Erythrocytic cycle has **quotidian** pattern (every **24hrs**)

Non-relapsing due to absence of hypnozoites

Microscopically **indistinguishable** from *P. malariae* (Use PCR to distinguish)

Quotidian pattern results in **high levels of parasitemia** and **severe disease with fatal consequence**

#### TREATMENT

Chloroquine

Primaquine

Should be treated aggressively and urgently

#### RING-FORM TROPHOZOITES

Normal to 0.75x smaller than uninfected RBC

Rings may show **double chromatin dots**

**Appliqué** forms may be seen as well as rectangular rings harboring one or more **accessory chromatin dots**

RBC may be **Multiply-infected**



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<b>Plasmodium Knowlesi (cont)</b>	<b>Plasmodium Malariae (cont)</b>	<b>Plasmodium Malariae (cont)</b>	<b>Clinical Manifestations (cont)</b>
<b>OLDER, DEVELOPING TROPHOZOITES</b>	<b>Old cells</b> are preferentially infected**	Mature schizonts nearly fill the normal-sized host	<b>INCUBATION PERIOD</b>
<b>Band forms</b> may appear similar to <i>P. malariae</i>	<b>RING-FORM TROPHOZOITES</b>	<b>GAMETOCYTES</b>	time between <b>sporozoite injection</b> and appearance of <b>clinical symptoms</b> (8-40)
<b>Sinton and Mulligan's stippling</b> may appear	Have <b>1 chromatin dot</b> and a <b>cytoplasm ring that is thicker than <i>P. falciparum</i></b> .	<b>Compact</b> and <i>fills*</i> host RBC	falciparum: 8-15 days
<b>SCHIZONTS</b>	Infected RBC is <b>normal to smaller</b>	<b>Reduction in size</b> of the infected RBC	vivax: 12-20 days
<b>Sinton and Mulligan's stippling</b> may appear	<b>Bird's-eye forms</b> may appear	<b>Cytoplasm</b> stains <b>blue</b> and the <b>chromatin is pink to red</b> .	ovale: 11-16 days
<b>10-16 merozoites</b>	<b>MATURE TROPHOZOITES</b>	<b>Abundant dark pigment</b> may be scattered throughout the cytoplasm	malariae: 18-40 days
<b>Gametocytes</b>	<b>Rounded chromatin</b> and <b>compact cytoplasm</b>	Band forms are present in <i>malariae</i> , <i>vivax</i> , and <i>knowlesi</i>	<b>knowlesi: 5 days- few weeks</b>
<b>Mature Macrogametocyte:</b> usually <b>spherical</b> and fill the host RBC. <b>Cytoplasm</b> stains <b>blue</b> and <b>eccentric nucleus</b> stains <b>red</b>	As the trophozoite matures, the cytoplasm may <b>elongate</b> across the host RBC, forming a <b>band-form</b>	<b>Clinical Manifestations</b>	<b>PROD-ROMAL SYMPTOMS</b>
<b>Microgametocyte:</b> <b>smaller</b> and <b>cytoplasm</b> stains <b>pale pink</b> , while <b>nucleus</b> stains a <b>darker red</b>	Pigment granules become larger and tend to have a more <b>peripheral</b> arrangement	<b>PRE-- PATENT PERIOD</b>	Weakness, exhaustion, aching bones, limbs, and back; loss of appetite; nausea; vomiting
<b>Plasmodium Malariae</b>	<b>Zeimann's stippling</b> may be present	Interval from <b>sporozoite injection to detection of parasites in blood</b>	malaise, backache, diarrhea, and epigastric discomfort
<b>QUARTAN MALARIA</b>	<b>SCHIZONTS</b>	P.falciparum: 11-14 days	<b>MALARIAL PAROXYSM</b>
Erythrocytic cycle of <b>72hrs</b>	<b>6-12 merozoites</b> , often arranged in a <b>rosette</b> or irregular cluster	vivax: 11-15 days	1. Cold Stage
Found in <b>subtropical</b> and <b>temperate</b> areas		ovale: 14-26 days	Sudden feelings of coldness and apprehension
Infected cells are <b>normal to smaller</b> in size than most RBCs		malariae: 3-4 weeks	
		knowlesi: 9-12 days	



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### Clinical Manifestations (cont)

Mild shivering quickly turns to violent teeth chattering and shaking of entire body

Vomiting may occur

Rigors last for 15min-1hr, then stops

### 2. Hot Stage or Flush Phase

Patient becomes hot (41° C), with headache, palpitations, tachypnea, epigastric discomfort, thirst, nausea, and vomiting

Skin is hot and flushed, patient is confused and delirious

Lasts 2-6hrs

### 3. Sweating Stage

Defervescence and diaphoresis or profuse sweating occurs

### Clinical Manifestations (cont)

Temperature lowers in the next 2-4hrs and symptoms diminish accordingly

Total duration is 8-12hrs

Periodicity of attack only occurs if patient is left untreated

Interval length is determined by length of erythrocytic cycle

falciparum, vivax and ovale – 48 hours

malariae – 72 hours

knowlesi – 24 hours

### COMPLICATIONS

**Vivax, ovale and quartan malaria** are relatively **benign**

Knowlesi

Severe thrombocytopenia, jaundice, deranged liver enzymes.

### Clinical Manifestations (cont)

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome with tachypnea, hypoxemia, and pulmonary infiltrates on CXR.

Acute Renal Failure with elevated serum creatinine

Hypotension

Acidosis

### Chronic Malariae

immune-complex deposition on the glomerular walls, leading to **nephrotic syndrome** in children

### Falciparum

Cerebral Malaria (requires prompt administration of **quinidine IV** and then **quinine PO**)

Anemia

Acute Renal Failure (tubular necrosis and nephrotic syndrome)

### Clinical Manifestations (cont)

Blackwater fever: from massive intravascular hemolysis and hemoglobinuria

Dysenteric Malaria

Algid Malaria: rapid development of hypotension and impairment of vascular perfusion

Pulmonary Edema

Tropical Splenomegaly Syndrome

Hyperparasitemia (>10-20% of RBC mean high mortality rate)

Hypoglycemia

### Treatment

Proper use of the antimalarial drugs is based on knowledge of their effects on the parasite at **various stages of the life cycle**



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Treatment (cont)	Treatment (cont)	Treatment (cont)	Treatment (cont)
<p><b>Supportive therapy:</b> destroy the parasites as they enter the bloodstream; effective against the <b>erythrocytic stages</b>.</p> <p><b>Clinical Cure:</b> full and rapid elimination of plasmodium from the blood to prevent complications</p> <p><b>Radical cure:</b> elimination of not only the bloodstream infection but the tissue stages in the liver as well.</p>	<p>1. Quinine blood schizonticide against all five species of human malarial parasites. Side effects of treatment include tinnitus and headache, vertigo</p> <p>2. Quinidine</p> <p>3. Chloroquine</p> <p>4. Amodiaquine</p> <p>5. Mefloquine effective against both chloroquine-sensitive and – resistant strains of P. falciparum and P. vivax. It is also effective against P. malariae and P. ovale</p> <p>6. Doxycycline</p> <p>7. Proguanil Prevents development of oocysts in mosquito</p> <p>8. Halofantrine</p>	<p>9. Artemisinin effective against P. falciparum, P. knowlesi and P. vivax, and in patients with cerebral malaria</p> <p><b>TISSUE SCHIZO-NTICIDES</b> destroy the developmental stages in the liver</p> <p>1. Primaquine effective against the hypnozoites of P. vivax and P. ovale.</p> <p><b>*GAMETOCYCIDES</b></p> <p>1. Primaquine gametocytocidal for all five species of malaria parasites and acts to render the patient noninfectious to the mosquito</p> <p><b>UNCOMPLICATED P. FALCIPARUM</b></p> <p>1. Atovaquone-Proguanil (Malarone™) 4 adult tabs po qd x 3 days</p>	<p>2. (Coartem™) 1 tablet = 20mg artemether and 120 mg lumefantrine. 4 tabs initial dose, followed by 4 tabs as second dose 8 hours later, then 4 tabs po bid for the following 2 days.</p> <p>3. plus one of the following: Doxycycline, Tetracycline, or Clindamycin (for pregnant)</p> <p>4. Mefloquine</p> <p><b>CHLOROQUINE-SENSITIVE FALCIPARUM OR UNCOMPLICATED P. MALARIAE</b></p> <p>1. Chloroquine phosphate</p> <p><b>UNCOMPLICATED P. VIVAX OR OVALE</b></p> <p>1. Chloroquine phosphate plus Primaquine phosphate</p> <p><b>CHLOROQUINE RESISTANT VIVAX</b></p> <p>1. Quinine sulfate plus either Doxycycline or Tetracycline plus Primaquine phosphate</p>



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### Treatment (cont)

#### SEVERE MALARIA

1. Quinidine gluconate plus one of the following: Doxycycline, Tetracycline, or Clindamycin
2. Exchange transfusion has been recommended for very severe falciparum malaria associated with high parasitemia ( > 10% of RBCs )

#### P. KNOWLESII

##### Uncomplicated

1. Chloroquine
2. Primaquine

##### Severe

1. Quinine
2. Artemether-Lumefantrine

#### MALARIA PROPHYLAXIS

1. Atovaquone/Proguanil
2. Doxycycline
3. Chloroquine
4. Mefloquine
5. Primaquine



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