



Severe Hyperparasitoma Controlled Malaria Infection in Humans

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DESCRIPTION

Malaria is a mosquito borne infection that affects humans and other animals. Malaria usually causes symptoms such as fever, malaise, vomiting and headaches. In severe cases, it can lead to jaundice, seizures, coma or death. Symptoms usually begin 10 to 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. If the illness is not treated properly, the illness can recur after a few months. In people who have recently recovered from infection, reinfection usually causes mild symptoms. If a person is not continuously exposed to malaria, this partial resistance disappears over months to years.

Malaria is caused by unicellular microorganisms of the *Plasmodium malaria* group. It is transmitted only by being bitten by an infected *Anopheles* mosquito. When bitten by a mosquito, parasites invade human blood from the saliva of the mosquito. Parasites migrate to the liver, where they mature and multiply. Five species of *Plasmodium* can infect humans. Most deaths are caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, but *vivax*, *ovale*, and malaria generally cause mild malaria. *Plasmodium knowlesi* rarely cause illness in humans. Malaria is usually diagnosed by microscopic examination of blood with blood smear or rapid antigen test. Methods have been developed to detect parasitic DNA using the polymerase chain reaction, but malaria is not widely used in areas where it is common due to its cost and complexity.

Only female mosquitoes spread the malaria pathogen. When a mosquito bites a person with malaria, he/she drinks the person's blood, including parasites. When a mosquito bites another person, it injects the parasite into that person. This is how the disease spreads.

When parasites enter our body, they move to our liver where they multiply. They enter our red blood cells that carry oxygen. Parasites enter them, lay eggs, and multiply until the red blood cells burst. This releases more parasites into the bloodstream.

This infection can make us very sick because they attack our healthy red blood cells more.

Malaria is not contagious. In other words, it does not pass from person to person. However, it can be spread in the following ways:

1. A pregnant mother to her unborn baby
2. Sharing needles
3. Blood transfusions
4. Organ transplant

Hundreds of millions of people around the world are infected with malaria each year. Most of them are sub-Saharan Africans. About 500,000 people die from malaria each year worldwide. Malaria is rare in the United States, and most of these cases occur in travelers, military personnel, and immigrants. Malaria can affect people of all ages, but infants and pregnant women are more likely to develop serious illnesses.

Malaria can be a life-threatening illness, especially if we are infected with *Plasmodium falciparum*. The disease is usually treated in the hospital. Our doctor will prescribe medicines based on the type of parasite we have. In some cases, the drug resistance of the parasite prevents the prescribed drug from eliminating the infection. If this happens, our doctor may need to use multiple medications or completely change medications to treat our condition. In addition, certain types of malaria parasites, such as *Plasmodium vivax* and *Plasmodium ovale*, have a stage in the liver, where the parasite can live in the body for extended periods of time and reactivate at a later date to reactivate the infection.

If we are diagnosed with any of these types of malaria parasites, we will be given a second drug to prevent future recurrence.

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