



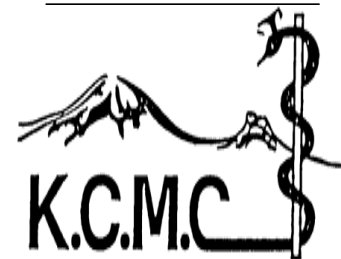
**Primaquine clears submicroscopic
Plasmodium falciparum gametocytes that
persist after treatment with
sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine and
artesunate**

Seif Shekalaghe, Chris Drakeley, Roly Gosling, Arnold Ndaró,
Monique van Meegeren, Anders Enevold, Michael Alifrangis,
Frank Moshá, Robert Sauerwein, Teun Bousema





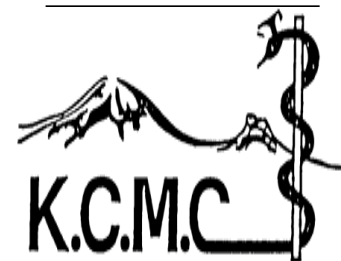
Objectives



1. Determine the efficacy of primaquine in combination with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine – artesunate (SP+AS+PQ) in clearing submicroscopic gametocytes
2. Assess the safety of PQ in relation to G6PD deficiency



Methods (1)

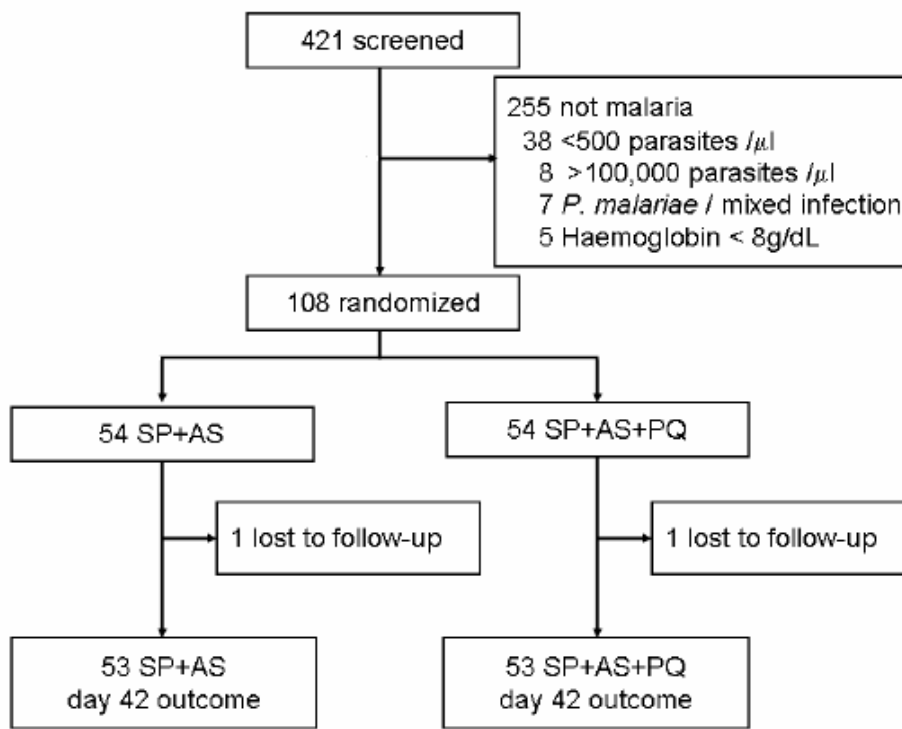
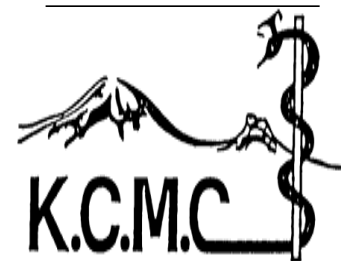


- Study conducted in Mnyuzi, Tanga region (Tanzania)
- An area of high malaria transmission intensity
- Children with uncomplicated malaria and an Hb > 8 g/dL were randomized to SP+AS (n=54) or SP+AS+PQ (n=54)
- Gametocyte detection by molecular *Pfs25* QT-NASBA on d0, d3, d7, d14, d28 and d42 after treatment (d0, d1, d2)
- Hb determined during follow-ups (d3, d7, d14, d28, d42)
- G6PD deficiency determined afterwards by PCR



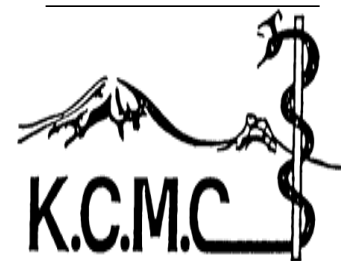
Methods (2)

Study Profile





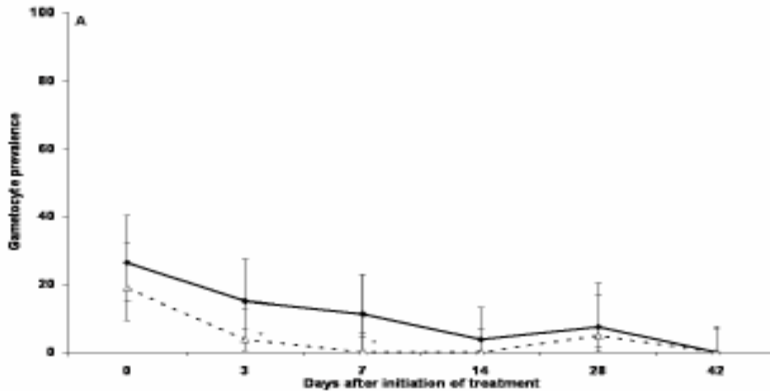
Results (1)



- No side-effects of either treatment reported
- G6PD deficiency in the population:
 - ✓ Homozygote deletion 6.5% (A-, n=7)
 - ✓ Heterozygotes 21.5% (A, n=23)
- High rates of treatment failures and re-infections after day 14:
 - ✓ 28.3% in SP+AS
 - ✓ 32.1% in SP+AS+PQ
- Gametocyte carriage by microscopy at enrolment:
 - ✓ 26% in SP+AS
 - ✓ 19% in SP+AS+PQ

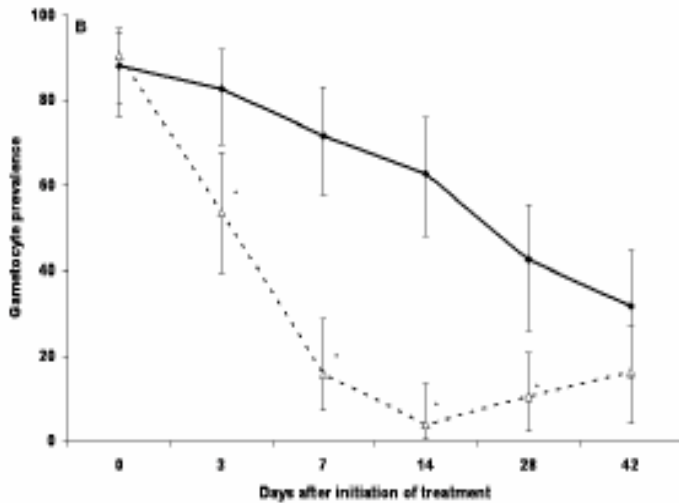


Results (2)



Microscopy:

- PQ -> Significantly lower prevalence
- No carriers seen on day 7 & 14



Molecular (QT- NASBA):

- Carriage rate higher overall
- PQ much reduced



Discussion & Conclusions



- The addition of PQ reduces gametocyte carriage (prevalence and density) significantly but not completely. This effect of reduction is likely to be larger in areas with lower rate of re-infection
- PQ associated with anaemia in G6PD deficient individuals
- The persisted gametocytes are unlikely to infect mosquitoes



Future perspectives



Results are important for our future work:

- We plan to conduct clinical trial on mass drug administration in an area of low transmission intensity, where
 - Most people are asymptomatic with lower parasite densities
 - Less likely to be anaemic
 - With lower G6PD rates