

DRUG PROFILE

ANTIMALARIALS

***Jeeson C Unni**
****Irshad M**

Abstract: *Treatment options for malaria, especially falciparum malaria, are continuously changing due to the rapid development of resistance to individual drugs used as monotherapy. Artemisinin-based combination therapies are presently considered the drugs of choice for uncomplicated falciparum malaria; however, chloroquine remains the standard therapy for chloroquine sensitive vivax malaria. Artemisinin-based combination therapies are increasingly being considered for the treatment of non-falciparum malaria. Artemisinin resistance has also been increasingly reported in recent years, and further research is necessary to develop novel drugs and combination therapies to address these emerging challenges and to achieve and sustain malaria control, with the ultimate aim of malaria elimination.*

Points to Remember

- *Artemisinin-based combination therapy is the cornerstone of treatment and is the first-line therapy for P. falciparum malaria, while monotherapy should be avoided due to rapid development of resistance.*
- *Severe malaria is a medical emergency, and intravenous artesunate should be initiated immediately to reduce mortality.*
- *Primaquine is essential for the radical cure of P. vivax malaria as it targets liver stages, but G6PD deficiency must be ruled out before use.*
- *Antimalarial treatment should always be guided by*

* Senior Consultant and Editor-in-Chief,
IAP Drug Formulary.
email : jeeson@asianetindia.com

** Associate Consultant,
Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology,
Aster Medcity,
Kochi.

regional resistance patterns to ensure optimal efficacy.

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