

Malaria

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What is Malaria?

Malaria is a parasitic illness spread by mosquitoes. Humans get infected with the parasite after being bitten by infected mosquitoes. It makes people feel very sick, with a high temperature and shivering chills. Even today, malaria is still widespread in tropical and subtropical areas, despite its rarity in temperate climates. Malaria infects about 290 million people each year, with over 400,000 people dying as a result of the disease. To combat malaria, World Health Organizations supply malaria prevention medicines and insecticide-treated bed nets to keep people safe from mosquito bites.

Symptoms of Malaria

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of malaria may include:

- Fever
- Chills
- General feeling of discomfort
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Muscle or joint pain
- Fatigue
- Rapid breathing
- Rapid heart rate
- Cough

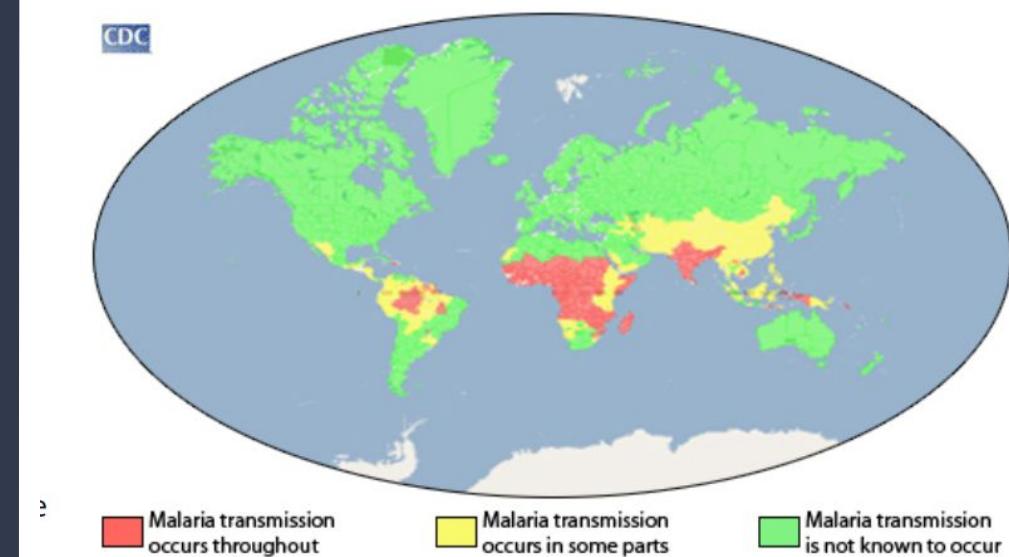
Chloroquine

Chloroquine phosphate (commonly known as chloroquine) is an antimalarial drug. It is only accessible via prescription in the United States. It is sold under the brand name Aralen. It is the most common medication to treat malaria.

Potential Side Effects for Chloroquine

Chloroquine is a drug that is generally well tolerated. Stomach discomfort, nausea, vomiting, and headache are the most common side effects recorded. Taking chloroquine with food can help to reduce these adverse effects. In certain people, chloroquine might induce itching.

The Spread of Malaria



As suggested above, malaria does not seem to appear an intimidating epidemic in first world countries. However, it is mostly concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite that, South-East Asia, Eastern Mediterranean, and South America are all reporting large numbers of cases and deaths.

Facts about Malaria

- Malaria is a life-threatening parasitic illness spread by bites from infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. It's both avoidable and treatable. Human malaria is caused by five parasite species, two of which – *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* – are the most life-threatening to human.
- In 2019, an estimated 229 million people were infected with malaria, with 409 000 people dying as a result. The WHO African Region is responsible for a disproportionately large part of the worldwide malaria burden. Malaria cases and fatalities accounted for 94 percent of all malaria cases and deaths in 2019.
- Children under the age of five are the most vulnerable to malaria, accounting for nearly two-thirds of all malaria fatalities globally in 2019.

Sources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/resources/pdf/fsp/drugs/chloroquine.pdf>
- https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/malaria_worldwide/impact.html
- https://www.who.int/health-topics/malaria#tab=tab_1
- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>
- <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/malaria-symptoms>