

DRUG COMBINATIONS FOR MALARIA: TIME TO ACT?

DUFFY PATRICK E ,

MUTABINGWA THEONEST K

Type: magazine article Language: English

Volume: 363 Number: 9402 Year: 2004

Pages: 3

MAGAZINE:

THE LANCET

Publisher: Elsevier Science Publishing Company, Inc.

ISSN: 0140-6736 eISSN: 1474-547X

KEYWORDS:

MALARIA , PRESCRIPTION RUGS , PARASITES , MOSQUITOES , DRUG RESISTANCE , FEVER , MEDICAL TREATMENT

ANNOTATION:

The scientist and popular writer Robert Desowitz calls malaria 'the oldest emerging disease'. Malaria is certainly old: the written records of the earliest human civilizations describe the distinct periodic fevers. From the vantage point of populations suffering under the burden of malaria, the thought that malaria might also be emerging or re-emerging is frightening but accurate. Despite its already enormous toll of human suffering, deaths due to malaria are increasing. A major factor contributing to the resurgence of malaria is drug resistance. For 50 years after its discovery, chloroquine was a cheap, safe, and effective oral drug for malaria in Africa. In many parts of Africa, chloroquine is no longer effective because of chloroquine-resistant parasites that are spreading rapidly throughout the remainder of the continent.