

A possible role for proguanil-dapsone against SP-resistant *P.falciparum*?

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Abstract

A two-armed trial was conducted in July 2000 in 4 villages near Muheza, Tanga Region, in Tanzania, asymptomatic children with *P.falciparum* parasitaemia > 200/ul (Mutabingwa et al. 2001 *Trans Roy Soc Trop Med Hyg* 95: 433-438). In one of the arms 188 children were treated with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine and only 14.3% showed parasite clearance at day 7 (16.1% at day 14). The SP batch used was checked for good quality and the low clearance rate is indicative of one of the worst levels of SP resistance yet recorded in Africa. SP resistance in this area has increased from about 20% in 1995 (Trigg et al 1997 *Acta Trop* 63: 1865-189) to 45% in 1998/9 (Mutabingwa et al 2001 *Lancet* 358: 1218-1233) and is now 86%