

**PHARMACOKINETIC INTERACTIONS BETWEEN QUININE
AND CIPROFLOXACIN IN HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS**

BY

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty. Also, to Oluwademilade-Ayo Hallelujah, a queen given to us by God almighty during the course of this work.

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ABSTRACT

This study determined the baseline pharmacokinetic parameters of quinine and its major metabolite (3-hydroxyquinine) and evaluated the effect of concurrent administration of ciprofloxacin on the pharmacokinetic parameters of quinine in healthy volunteers with a view of obtaining information that will guide the usage of quinine when co-administered with ciprofloxacin.

Ethical approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Public Health, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife and written informed consent was obtained from the healthy volunteers. Each subject was assessed at screening to be healthy by physical examination, medical history and routine laboratory evaluations. The study was implemented as a 2-period design. In period 1, a single oral dose (600 mg) of quinine sulphate was given to each of twelve volunteers and blood samples were withdrawn at pre-determined intervals over 48 hours. After a wash out period of 1 month, each volunteer received multiple oral doses of 500 mg ciprofloxacin tablet every 12 hours for 7 days and a single oral dose of 600 mg quinine sulphate was then given concurrently with the 11th dose of ciprofloxacin, and blood samples were taken at predetermined intervals again over 48 hours after drug administration. The blood samples were centrifuged to obtain plasma which was stored in the freezer at -20 °C until the samples were analysed for plasma levels of quinine and its main metabolite, 3-hydroxyquinine, by High Performance Liquid Chromatographic method. The pharmacokinetic parameters of quinine with or without ciprofloxacin were determined and the differences between the two pairs of data were evaluated by the Student's t-test. A p-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Concurrent administration of quinine and ciprofloxacin resulted in significant ($p < 0.05$) increased elimination half life ($t_{1/2}$), maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the curve ($AUC_{0-\infty}$) of quinine by 32 %, 19 % and 49 % respectively. Similarly, ciprofloxacin caused a marked decrease of 31 % in the plasma clearance (Cl_p) of quinine. The C_{max} and $AUC_{0-\infty}$ of 3-hydroxyquinine were also significantly reduced when ciprofloxacin was co-administered with quinine by 53 % and 44 % respectively. In addition, the metabolic ratio of quinine was markedly decreased by 63 % when co-administered with ciprofloxacin. These results showed that the formation of 3-hydroxyquinine had been hindered in the presence of ciprofloxacin. This might be attributed to the inhibition of an enzyme, CYP 3A4, which is responsible for the conversion of quinine to 3-hydroxyquinine.

The study concluded that there is a modest and significant pharmacokinetic (metabolic) interaction between quinine and ciprofloxacin *in vivo* when co-administered.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

1.1 The Burden of Malaria in Our Society

Malaria is an important cause of death and illness in children and adults, especially in tropical countries. Malaria control requires an integrate approach, including prevention (primarily vector control) and prompt treatment with effective antimalarials. It is said to be the most important parasitic disease that inflicts humans today (WHO malaria treatment guidelines, 2010). It is one of the most serious complex and refractory health problem facing humanity this century and is by far the most important tropical disease causing great suffering and loss of life worldwide (Weil, 2011). Malaria is a leading killer of children under five and it kills a child every minute in Africa (UNICEF, 2013). In 2012 alone, 207 million malaria cases leading to approximately 627,000 malaria deaths mostly among African children were reported (WHO, 2013). This report further revealed that 40 % of world population (about 3.4 billion people) were at risk of malaria, with populations living in sub-Saharan Africa having the highest risk of acquiring malaria. Survey globally also showed that 80 % of malaria deaths occur in just 14 African countries. Together, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria account for over 40 % of the estimated total of malaria deaths globally. Malaria remains the foremost killer disease in Nigeria where it accounts for over 25 % of under-5 mortality, 30 % childhood mortality and 11 % maternal mortality. It also account for about 60% of out-patient visits and 30 % of all hospital admissions

and it consistently ranks among the three most common causes of death in Nigeria with 50 % of the population experiencing at least one episode of malaria each year (FMOH, 2007).

Malaria is caused by five species of parasites of the genus *Plasmodium* that affect humans (*P. falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae* and *P. knowlesi*). Malaria due to *P. falciparum* is the most deadly form and it predominates in Africa. *P. vivax* is less dangerous but more widespread, and the other three species are found much less frequently (WHO, 2013). Malaria parasites are transmitted to humans by the bite of infected female mosquitoes of more than 30 anopheles mosquito species (WHO, 2013). However, congenital malaria and acquisition through infected blood transfusion are well described (Kitchen *et al.*, 2006, Falade *et al.*, 2007). Mixed infections caused by more than one *Plasmodium* species are frequent but under recognised (Crawley *et al.*, 2010). Around 90% of all malarial cases were caused by *P. falciparum* and it is responsible for most malaria-related deaths worldwide. Also it is the predominant *Plasmodium* species in sub-Saharan Africa where transmission intensity and population at risk vary considerably between and within countries (Guerra *et al.*, 2008). Almost all populations at medium and high levels of risk live in sub-Saharan Africa, where the burden of disease, death, and disability from *falciparum* malaria is high (Gething *et al.*, 2010).

In Asia, *P. vivax* is now emerging as the dominant *Plasmodium* species and it is the most prevalent of the five human malaria parasites outside Africa (Price *et al.*, 2009). It is mostly absent from Central and West Africa because a high proportion of the population have the Duffy-negative phenotype, which prevents erythrocyte invasion by the parasite. In other tropical regions of the world, *P. vivax* coexists with other *Plasmodium* species and mixed infections are common (Crawley *et al.*, 2010). The transmission rates are low in most regions where *P. vivax* is prevalent therefore affected populations do not achieve high levels of immunity to this parasite

and people of all ages are at risk of infection, although children are more often ill (Crawley *et al.*, 2010). There is increasing evidence that *P. vivax* is responsible for substantial morbidity and mortality, especially in infants (Poespoprodjo *et al.*, 2009). Control is not straightforward because of the difficulty of achieving radical cure by elimination of dormant liver stages (hypnozoites). Infection with *P. malariae* occurs in most malaria-endemic areas, but is much less common than is infection with *P. falciparum* or *P. vivax*. *P. ovale* is rare outside Africa. *P. knowlesi*, a zoonosis found throughout Southeast Asia, is often misidentified as *P. malariae*, although the clinical course is more severe and fatalities have been described (Cox-Singh *et al.*, 2008).

Several African countries that have achieved high coverage with insecticide-treated nets, indoor residual spraying, and effective treatment programmes have reported a pronounced decline in malaria burden, accompanied, in some instances, by a sharp fall in all-case mortality in children younger than 5 years of age (KleinSchmidt *et al.*, 2009). Enhanced optimism and a marked increase in funding for malaria control have prompted recent calls to revisit the possibility of malaria elimination in some countries and regions. The severity and course of a clinical attack depend on the species and strain of the infecting plasmodium parasite, as well as the age, genetic constitution, malaria-specific immunity, and nutritional status (Caulfield *et al.*, 2004).

There are concerns about some complications associated with malaria especially in children. Untreated malaria in a young child or in a non-immune individual may become complicated. The patient may present with very high body temperature, drowsiness, convulsions and coma indicating heavy parasitaemia, impaired consciousness (prostration or coma), seizures, respiratory distress, metabolic acidosis, severe anaemia, hypoglycaemia and cerebral malaria (Crawley *et al.*, 2010).

Cerebral malaria is defined by WHO as unrousable coma in a patient with *P. falciparum* (or other species) parasitaemia in whom other causes of encephalopathy have been excluded (WHO, 2013). Although the term implies a distinct disease entity, the clinical syndrome is highly variable. Antimalarial drugs have formed the mainstay of treatment. The recommended treatment of severe complicated malaria is intravenous quinine or artemisinin derivatives (Crawley *et al.*, 2010). Intravenous infusion of quinine should be given slowly over 8 hours to avoid cardiac complications. This should be followed by oral quinine tablets for a total of 7 days once the patient is conscious and can take drug orally. Thus, over the year, intravenous quinine remains standard treatment for patients with cerebral or severe malaria and still remains the first line drug in most African countries (Achan *et al.*, 2011).

A concern at present is the emergence and rapid spread multi-drug resistance *P. falciparum*. Antimalarial drug resistance poses a major threat to malaria control efforts. Drug resistance is the degree to which a disease or disease-causing organism remains unaffected by a drug which was previously able to eliminate it. In the case of malaria, it is the resistance of the malaria parasite, *P. falciparum* to antimalarial drugs. Reports of chloroquine resistant strains of *P. falciparum* are being documented in all regions of the world where malaria is endemic. Resistance to antimalarial drugs other than chloroquine is also occurring at an alarming rate. Therapeutic efficacy studies remain the gold standard for guiding drug policy and should be undertaken every 2 years (WHO, 2013). All malaria endemic countries are therefore recommended to assess the level of antimalarial drug resistance using WHO recommended protocols, and change their drug policy if significant resistance is documented (WHO, 2013). Resistance to chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine originated on the Thai- Cambodian border and subsequently spread across Asia and Africa, causing millions of deaths (Roper *et al.*, 2004). Studies conducted in western Cambodia showed that there is a reduced *in-vivo* susceptibility of *P. falciparum* to artesunate monotherapy, characterised by slow parasite clearance without concomitant reduction of *in-vitro* susceptibility (Dondorp *et al.*, 2009). Resistance in most cases occurs as a result of exposure of *P. falciparum* to sub-therapeutic concentrations of antimalarial drugs which might arise from suboptimum dosing (Barnes *et al.*, 2006), the use of ineffective, substandard, or counterfeit drugs (Newton *et al.*, 2008) or from failure to complete a full treatment course (patient poor compliance). As in