

48 hours. Relapses were recorded in 5 cases on day 10, 11, 15, 20 and 22 (average 15.6 days).

The results show that chloroquine is the

most effective drug for initial treatment of vivax malaria in children with rapid clearance of both parasitaemia and fever and delayed relapse.

ACCIDENTAL HUMAN INFECTIONS BY *PLASMODIUM CYNOMOLGI BASTIANELLII*: A SEROLOGICAL AND CLINICAL STUDY OF TWO RECENT CASES

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Two cases of accidental human infection by *Plasmodium cynomolgi bastianellii* were recently observed in Paris and recalled us that man is highly susceptible of this simian parasite.

Both patients exhibited high fever, nausea, headache and various aches. In one case the *Plasmodium* was observed on blood smears (one per 20,000 red cells) and a successful inoculation to Rhesus monkeys proved that it was due to *P.c. bastianellii*.

Sero-immunological studies using two tests, a fluorescent antibody test and a cellulose acetate immuno-electro-diffusion assay, were performed with 3 antigens; *P.c. bastianellii*, *P. falciparum* and *P. knowlesi*.

A rapid raise of specific antibodies occurred in both cases. However, using the homologous cynomolgi antigen, the antibody titer was much higher and remained detectable for

a longer period, than using the heterologous antigens. This difference was obvious for the precipitating antibodies.

In the second case, blood smears were done too late, after initiation of treatment, and were therefore negative. Nevertheless the simian origin of this infection is highly suspected because this patient was exposed and bitten by mosquitoes infected by the same strain and his antibody response was strictly identical to the first one.

The high susceptibility of normal humans, the striking resemblance of the blood stages of *P. cynomolgi* and *P. vivax*, the low parasitaemia which has always been recorded in human cases, and the favourable evolution of this animal infection in man, lead us to suspect a possible existence of unknown human cases in regions where this infection naturally occurs in monkeys. In such case *P. cynomolgi bastianellii* would be a true zoonosis.

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