

INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Plasmodium ovale sp. and *Plasmodium malariae* in Africa: difficult items of business on the malaria eradication agenda

Colin J Sutherland^{1,2,3*}, Mary C Oguike², Valerie Smith¹, Martha Betson⁴, Teun Bousema², Peter L Chiodini^{1,3}

From Parasite to Prevention: Advances in the understanding of malaria
Edinburgh, UK. 20-22 October 2010

The elimination of malaria in Africa is sensibly focused on the challenge of *P. falciparum*. However the parasite species *P. ovale curtisi*, *P. ovale wallikeri* and *P. malariae* occur across the continent at population prevalences ranging from negligible, up to ~9% for *P. ovale* sp. and up to ~15% for *P. malariae*. All three species are able to recur in the successfully treated patient months or years after exposure, even if successful clearance of blood-stage infections has occurred through antimalarial therapy. We present some recent data from surveys in several African localities as well as analyses of Malaria Reference Laboratory data for patterns of presentation of these parasite species among imported malaria cases in the UK, and consider the possibility that a substantial hidden burden of infection exists. The public health implications and challenges posed by these malaria species to malaria eradication programmes will also be considered.

Author details

¹HPA Malaria Reference Laboratory, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London WC1E7HT, UK. ²Dept of Immunology & Infection, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London WC1E 7HT, UK. ³Dept of Clinical Parasitology, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London WC1E 6JB, UK. ⁴Dept of Zoology, Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD, UK.

Published: 20 October 2010

doi:10.1186/1475-2875-9-S2-I10

Cite this article as: Sutherland et al: *Plasmodium ovale* sp. and *Plasmodium malariae* in Africa: difficult items of business on the malaria eradication agenda. *Malaria Journal* 2010 **9**(Suppl 2):I10.

¹HPA Malaria Reference Laboratory, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London WC1E7HT, UK
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

