In India, the first confirmed report of chloroquine resistance in \textit{P. falciparum} was reported in 1973. Since then there has been a rise in resistance to chloroquine in \textit{Plasmodium falciparum} and \textit{vivax} as also to pyrimethamine - sulphadoxine group of drugs.\textsuperscript{1} Resistance to artemisinin and its derivatives has not been documented in India except for isolated case reports.\textsuperscript{2} In a multicentric study of arteether in patients of uncomplicated falciparum malaria, it was found that the cure rate was 97\% with fever clearance time between 24 - 168 hrs, and parasite clearance time between 24-72 hours.\textsuperscript{3} Our patient remained febrile and malarial parasites persisted on peripheral smear even after 144 hours of treatment of arteether. The response came only after administration of mefloquine. We conclude that, this patient had infection with \textit{P. falciparum} that was resistant to chloroquine and arteether. In most of the developing countries antimalarials have been used over-the-counter for fever of any cause. Additionally, antimalarials are taken in inadequate doses. Even the use of newer drugs like artemisinin derivatives and mefloquine has not been spared and are being used indiscriminately. We report this case of \textit{P. falciparum} resistance to arteether in the hope that the use of newer antimalarials be instituted judiciously to avoid resistance to potent antimalarials like arteether.

\textbf{P Sharma\textsuperscript{*}, A Kumar\textsuperscript{**}, P Pant\textsuperscript{+}, S Prakash\textsuperscript{***}}

\textsuperscript{*}Senior Resident; \textsuperscript{**}Junior Resident; \textsuperscript{***}Senior Physician; Department of Medicine; +DMO, Blood Bank In-Charge; NRCH, Delhi.

Received : 24.10.2001; Revised : 18.12.2001; Accepted : 20.5.2002

\textbf{REFERENCES}

