Post Malaria Neurological Syndrome and Vivax Malaria

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Sir,

I read an interesting case report of post malaria neurological syndrome (PMNS), in form of seizure, even after adequate treatment of *P. vivax* malaria entitled as “an unusual sequelae of uncomplicated *vivax* malaria” by Bhatt and colleagues. It is worth appreciation and I would like to share my experience and views-

1. Neurological complications or sequel earlier described in *falciparum* malaria are now known to occur in *P. vivax* malaria as well, of course with not equal potential. Malaria being a common problem in tropical countries even a rarest of rare complication or squeal is important.

2. Earlier also such cases are being reported of course not as PMNS, but with other grave complications.

3. As observed in an earlier study, seizures may play an important role in pathogenesis of coma in
childhood cerebral malaria.  
4. Similarly we have reported a case of ADEM which was earlier reported with falciparum malaria.  

The aim of this correspondence is to further carry forward the message of the eminent authors with some additional information, so as to further enhance the relevance of such mini but otherwise quite informative articles. As PMNS being a self-limiting complication or sequelae it is more important to know it so as to avoid costly investigations, drug treatment and, avoidance of side effects of anti-epileptics in case of seizures.

References


Reply from Author

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Sir,

We appreciate the views regarding the uncommon manifestations of central nervous system involvement seen with both falciparum and vivax malaria. It is very aptly said that “malaria being a common problem in tropical countries even a rarest of rare complication or sequel is important”, and indeed sharing such relevant information through a widely read journal is useful for the readers. We have described a case of vivax malaria followed by post-malaria neurological syndrome (PMNS), who although initially had difficult to control seizures, recovered completely later on. It has hitherto been reported as an uncommon manifestation in falciparum malaria, we observed the same in vivax malaria. This adds to the list of complications which although classically described with Plasmodium falciparum is now increasingly being reported with Plasmodium vivax. We fully endorse the views expressed that PMNS is a self-limiting complication, and increased awareness among physicians will avoid costly investigations and help in better patient management.