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## Acute allergic reaction to oral quinine for malarial prevention: A case report

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### ABSTRACT

Quinine is a classical antimalarial drug that is used worldwide. It is also used for pre-exposure of malaria before visiting to the jungle in the endemic area of malaria. In this article, the authors reported a case of acute allergic reaction to oral quinine for malarial prevention.

## 1. Introduction

Quinine is a classical antimalarial drug that is used worldwide. It is also used for pre-exposure of malaria before visiting to the jungle in the endemic area of malaria<sup>[1–5]</sup>. Although it is considered a safe drug, the adverse and unwanted reaction to quinine can be seen<sup>[6]</sup>. In this article, the authors reported a case of acute allergic reaction to oral quinine for malarial prevention.

## 2. Case report

The indexed case is a 45-year-old old male patient. The chief complaint was generalized rash with angioedema. He noted the occurrence of symptoms after intake of quinine. His vital sign was stable. In this case, the oral quinine was given by his company for use as pre-exposure of malaria before visiting to the

jungle for field work. The patient was managed by oral prednisolone and the symptom disappeared within 3 days.

## 3. Discussion

Quinine is a widely used drug for a long time and the quinine use is very interesting. It is an important issue in tropical medicine. The adverse reaction of quinine is observable and can sometimes be fatal<sup>[7]</sup>. Focusing on hypersensitivity, the allergic reaction to quinine is sporadically reported. Fixed drug eruption becomes an important dermatological presentation in quinine allergy<sup>[8,9]</sup>. In the present report, the anaphylactoid reaction due to oral quinine intake is observable. It is considered a rare acute response<sup>[6]</sup>. Indeed, a more severe form, anaphylaxis is also reported in the literature<sup>[10]</sup>. Of interest, in the present case, the problem occurs due to the use of quinine as pre-exposure prophylaxis. The practice of pre-exposure prophylaxis is done in many tropical endemic area and the use is usually without closed control by the physician. If the problem of unwanted reaction to quinine occurs and the patient is not sent to the medical unit for proper management, the fatality might be expected in the worst case.

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## Conflict of interest statement

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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