

The analysis of malarial chemoprophylaxis

Abstract

Malaria, a protozoan infectious disease transmitted by Anopheles mosquito, is still endemic in most tropical/subtropical areas and causes 300-500 millions infections and 1 million deaths annually worldwide. The eradication of malaria has been maintained for more than 40 years in Taiwan and patients mostly acquired it when having trips in endemic areas. Using personal protection measures and chemoprophylaxis are two main methods for malaria prevention. This study intends to understand the basic information, compliance and side effects of people asking for malaria chemoprophylaxis by questionnaire. Their knowledge、attitude and practice will also be evaluated to know where to strengthen on malaria prevention.

Among 130 finished questionnaires, most people are young (age:20~39: 82%) and the Male/female ratio is 6:4. Top three common travel areas are east Africa、west Africa and south of America(47%、24%、9%) and the frequent purpose for travel are working and group trip(38%、31%) and the average length of trip is 16days. The most common source of information of malaria prevention is from travel agency (34%). Most people concern the convenience of drug usage. Side effects are usually mild and mefloquine-users have the highest frequency. People mostly understand the risk of malaria and perceive the need for prevention, however, fewer of them implement really.

The study presents the outline of users of malaria chemoprophylaxis and has some conclusions: we should increase the communication with travel agency、broaden the service of travel clinic service and consider the need of another more convenient drug to diminish the barrier of chemoprophylaxis.

Keyword: malaria , chemoprophylaxis, questionnaire