

Antiparasitic and antifungal agents

Challenges:

- 1 You are asked to join a medical disaster assistance team (DMAT) leaving for western PNG in 48hr.
 - a. What antimalarial prophylaxis agent would you choose?
 - b. How often and how long would you take it for?
 - c. What other antimalarial precautions would you use?
 - d. What difference would being 3 months pregnant make?

- 2 On your return you develop fever and sweats, and a blood film you have done shows malaria parasites. The rapid card test is positive.
 - a. What antimalarial agent(s) could you take?
 - b. Which of these do you think would be the best choice?
 - c. What difference would it make if you were as old as the lecturer?

- 3 A month later you have recovered from malaria but are still not feeling in top form. You have poor appetite, indigestion and a chronic tendency to diarrhoea. Bacteriology on the faecal sample you sent to the lab is unhelpful. Non-pathogenic enteric parasites were seen.
 - a. What anti-parasite agent could you use as a trial of therapy?
 - b. If you don't get any better, what should you do next?

- 4 A middle-aged man shows you a discoloured and distorted big toe nail. He asks you what you can do to fix it. Fungal elements are seen in clippings from the affected nail.
 - a. What antifungal agents could you use?
 - b. How long should they be taken for?
 - c. What problems do you anticipate?

- 5 A diabetic patient who developed fever is shown to have yeast cells in her blood culture.
 - a. What antifungal agents could you use for initial treatment?
 - b. How would your choice differ if the patient was in acute renal failure?
 - c. How might it change when definitive lab results came through?

Where to find more information:

- Antibiotic guidelines (revised annually)
- The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy (revised annually)
- The Hopkins Antibiotic Guide
- Electronic prescribing guides (e.g. Epocrates, revised weekly)
- Field Guide to Wilderness Medicine, Auerbach et al. Mosby. 2003.
- Websites: WHO, CDC, ACTM
- Infectious diseases service
- Drug information service
- Malaria Atlas Project