



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	MS: 2012 IJTDH 2806
Title of the Manuscript:	Potential factors responsible for the development of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> and <i>Plasmodium vivax</i> resistance to anti-malarial drugs in some parts of India

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 9 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	This manuscript addresses the importance of strengthening India's national drug control policy to avoid the development of further resistance to anti-malarials. While enforcing antimalarial legislations and quality control are indeed essential components of any malaria reduction or eradication programme, this article lacks a cohesive structure, is vague in some areas but too detailed in others, and requires editing for grammar. The issues addressed in this article are not novel and have been previously published many times. The final 3 paragraphs of the commentary are its only 'novel' aspect, i.e., something needs to be done in India specifically. What the author is trying to say here is noble and most likely valid, but the 3 paragraphs lack supporting references for the numbers that are quoted (e.g., there are 0.6 million chemists, business of industry is 90.000 crores of which 40% is exporting) and for the claims that are made (e.g., the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has inadequate staff... they need 3200 drug inspectors but have only 1000... who says so??). The sentence beginning "In India..." on line 39 does not make sense. How could malaria have been eradicated from areas that were free from this disease? In the previous sentence, it is not clear how a	The manuscript rewritten, detailed and unwanted paragraphs deleted which lack supporting references. Agreed with the reviewer and corrected the manuscript. Deleted.



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	“malaria endemic” area is different from a “malaria risk” area and why this distinction is important? Line 51. Reference 9, Valecha et al., report a 100% cure rate at 28 days using CQ with rapid parasite clearance. Therefore, perhaps this is not the appropriate reference to support a statement suggesting CQ resistance in <i>P. vivax</i>. Lines 53-65. For this discussion on “poor quality” drugs which is one of the main arguments of this paper, and where the terms “substandard” and “inadequate treatment” are used, a more comprehensive explanation of what comprises “poor quality” should be included. Poor quality drugs are usually classified as counterfeit, substandard, or degraded. Counterfeit medicines are deliberately and fraudulently mislabelled whereas substandard and degraded drugs are genuine medicines that either do not meet the quality specifications they should or that have been not been stored properly (or past their expiry date). The distinction between substandard and degraded is important because the remedies for these problems will be different. (The sentence that goes from line 60-63 is very long and does not make sense). The first sentence of the discussion should state the main “finding” or point of the paper, but the first sentence of this discussion is awkward and too long and also stops making sense after “has been revised...”	Valecha et al,(earlier Reference 9, and now 6) emphasized to be vigilant on <i>P. vivax</i> resistance therefore reference is essential and included. Modified as per comments. Rewritten.
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	Lines 82-82. Need supporting references or studies. A good, clear, well-organised discussion on the importance of optimised dosing to avoid resistance can be found in White et al, Malaria Journal 2009, 8:253 (Hyperparasitaemia and low dosing are an important source of anti-malarial drug Resistance). This article also talks about the importance of using quality-assured medicines.	Deleted. Included article of White et al, Malaria Journal 2009, in discussion part.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Line 42. "Pf" used before it is defined. Line 43. No need for decimals to 100th place. Suggest keeping it to 10th place for consistency t/o manuscript. line 44. "failure" was defined as... PCR corrected recrudescence at 28 days perhaps? Or any recurrence? Line 53. "ACTs" used before it is defined. Line 54-55. You write "South Asia" and "south East Asia"... it should be "Southeast Asia" in both instances. Line 65. "inadequate treatment" is too vague for the statement you are trying to make here. There is a typo in reference number 4 with a "t" after "http" Line 89. What is a "crores"? The final 3 paragraphs need editing for sentence structure and grammar.	All the comments attended.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		Since the manuscript has been modified based on compulsory revision, it is not possible to highlight in the revised manuscript.