Efficacy of Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole Compared with Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine Plus Erythromycin for the Treatment of Uncomplicated Malaria in Children With Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Dual Classifications of Malaria and Pneumonia

Mary J. Hamel, Timothy Holtz, Christopher Mkandala, Nyokase Kaimila, Nyson Chizani, Peter Bloiland, James Kublin, Peter Kazembe, and Richard Steketee

Malaria Epidemiology Branch, Division of Parasitic Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases and the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia; Malawi Ministry of Health and Population, Lilongwe, Malawi; Blantyre Integrated Malaria Initiative, Blantyre, Malawi; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington

Abstract. In Malawi, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TS) is the recommended first-line treatment for children with Integrated Management of Childhood Illness dual classifications of malaria and pneumonia, and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) plus five days of treatment with erythromycin (SP plus E) is the recommended second-line treatment. Using a 14-day, modified World Health Organization protocol, children with dual IMCI classifications of malaria and pneumonia with Plasmodium falciparum parasitemia were randomized to receive TS or SP plus E. Clinical and parasitologic responses and gametocyte prevalence were obtained. A total of 87.2% of children receiving TS and 80.0% receiving SP plus E reached adequate clinical and parasitologic responses (ACPRs) (P = 0.19). Severely malnourished children were less likely to achieve ACPRs than those better nourished (relative risk = 3.34, P = 0.03). Day 7 gametocyte prevalence was 55% and 64% among children receiving TS and SP plus E, respectively (P = 0.19). Thus, TS and SP plus E remain efficacious treatment of P. falciparum malaria in this setting. However, patient adherence and effectiveness of five days of treatment with TS is unknown.

BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization/United Nations Children’s Fund guidelines for the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) are being implemented in many countries as a means to improve the health and reduce the morbidity and mortality of children. The guidelines assist health workers with limited resources identify and treat children with illnesses that are most likely to result in death. According to IMCI guidelines, a child who lives in an area with high malaria transmission who comes to a health facility with fever should be classified as having malaria, and should be treated with an effective antimalarial drug. Any child who meets the guideline’s criteria as having a dual classification of pneumonia and malaria should be treated for both illnesses. Treatment options for dual classifications of pneumonia and malaria include a five-day course of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TS) to treat both the presumed malaria and pneumonia. This treatment strategy is based on studies that showed a five-day course of TS to be efficacious in clearing malaria parasitemia.1,2

In March 1993, the Malawi Ministry of Health and Population was the first sub-Saharan country to adopt sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) as national first-line treatment of uncomplicated malaria. Since 1997, increasing Plasmodium falciparum resistance to SP has been documented, with efficacy studies demonstrating 14-day parasitologic failure rates as high as 35%.3 Since SP and TS provide their antimicrobial action through inhibition of the same enzymes in the folic acid biosynthetic pathway (pyrimethamine and trimethoprim inhibit dihydrofolate reductase, whereas sulfadoxine and sulfamethoxazole inhibit dihydropteroate synthetase), cross-resistance could develop, and a decrease in the antimalarial efficacy of TS may occur in parallel with SP resistance development. At least two studies have demonstrated that cross-resistance between the two drugs may occur.4,5

The Malawi Ministry of Health and Population plans to implement IMCI guidelines in all outpatient health facilities. The adapted Malawian guidelines recommend TS as the first-line treatment option for dual classifications of pneumonia and malaria; SP plus erythromycin (SP plus E) is recommended as second-line treatment. Thus, it is essential that policy makers know the antimalarial efficacy of a five-day course of TS. We conducted a study to measure the efficacy of TS compared with SP plus E for treatment of P. falciparum malaria among children with dual IMCI classifications of malaria and pneumonia. We did not design this study to measure the efficacy of TS or E in treating IMCI-classified pneumonia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site. The study was begun in April 2001, the peak malaria transmission season, and continued until July 2001. The study was conducted at Chilomoni Health Center, a busy peri-urban health facility with inpatient facilities located on the outskirts of Blantyre in the Blantyre District. The Blantyre District is an area of high P. falciparum malaria transmission. Malaria transmission occurs year round with seasonal variation and is most intense from January to June. Greater than 90% of malaria infections are caused by P. falciparum; the remaining infections are from P. malariae and P. ovale.6

Study design. We conducted a non-blinded, randomized, controlled trial based on a 14-day World Health Organization in vivo protocol for assessing the efficacy of antimalarial drugs in areas of intense transmission.7

Patients. Inclusion criteria for the study were 1) child between the ages of six months and five years; 2) presentation to

* Address correspondence to Mary J. Hamel, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/KeNya Medical Research Institute Research Station, Unit 64112, APO, AE, 09831. E-mail: mhame1@ke.cdc.gov
the outpatient clinic at the Chilomoni health facility with an IMCI classification of malaria (history of or current fever) and pneumonia (cough or difficult breathing and elevated respiratory rate for age) without signs of severe disease; 3) thick and thin blood films with a non-mixed P. falciparum infection with at least 2,000 asexual parasites/μL; and 4) informed consent from a guardian with agreement to admit the child to the inpatient facility for five days of observation where study drugs were administered.

Children with signs or symptoms of severe illness, with a hemoglobin level < 5 g/dL, or those with a sulfa or quinine allergy were excluded from the study. Prior antimicrobial drug use was not a reason for exclusion.

The study was reviewed and approved by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Institutional Review Board and the Malawi National Health Sciences Research Committee.

**Enrollment and treatment.** Enrolled children provided a thorough history and underwent a physical examination by study clinicians trained in IMCI. Temperatures were taken using an aural thermometer. Children who were found to be febrile, with a temperature ≥ 38.0°C, or who had a history of fever during this illness, and who had an IMCI classification of pneumonia were sent to the laboratory for a thick blood film and a hemoglobin measurement using HemoCue® cuvettes (HemoCue, Angelholm, Sweden). Those children who were parasitemic, with a screening parasite density of at least 2,000 asexual parasites/μL of blood, were randomized to receive either a five-day course of TS (80 mg of trimethoprim and 400 mg of sulfamethoxazole per tablet [1 tablet for children weighing 10–19 kg; half a tablet for children weighing < 10 kg]) or SP (500 mg of sulfadoxine and 25 mg of pyrimethamine per tablet [1.25 mg of pyrimethamine/kg of body weight]) plus a five-day course of erythromycin (125 mg four times a day if they weighed < 10 kg; 250 mg four times a day if they weighed ≥ 10 kg) to treat the respiratory infection.

Enrolled children were given the study medication orally and admitted to the study ward (considered day 0) where they were observed throughout the period that study medications were administered (days 0–4). The study ward was staffed by study nurses who remained on the ward at all times and who assessed every child’s vital signs and health status every six hours. A senior clinician or medical officer was available to the nursing staff at all times, and lead daily study ward rounds.

Children were observed for 30 minutes after the study drug was administered. Those who vomited the study drug(s) within 30 minutes of administration were provided a second full dose of the medication(s). Those with hemoglobin levels ≥ 5.0 g/dL and ≤ 8 g/dL received a 30-day course of daily iron without folate, beginning on day 0, according to Malawi guidelines for treatment of malaria-associated anemia. Children > 2 years old who had not received albendazole within the past six months were given this drug, in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines. All children received paracetamol every eight hours for fever.

**Malaria microscopy.** After randomization, a second finger-prick was done for malaria thick and thin films. The second film, and all follow-up films, were dried and stained with Giemsa in the clinic. Parasite density was determined by counting the number of asexual parasites against 200 leukocytes, and by assuming a white blood cell count of 8,000/μL of blood. Slides were considered negative if no parasites were found after examining 100 high-powered fields.

Each blood smear was examined by two study technicians, who independently recorded parasite densities. Parasite density readings for each slide were compared and those that differed by greater than three-fold were read by a third technician. The geometric mean of the two nearest estimates of parasite density was used in the analysis.

**Study drug.** Brand name TS and SP were obtained from reputable multinational pharmaceutical companies. Samples from single pharmaceutical lots of TS and SP were tested to evaluate quality of the study drugs. The levels of active ingredients for both TS and SP were tested using high-performance liquid chromatography at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, GA). Both TS and SP were found to have acceptable levels of active ingredients.

**Follow-up.** Children were evaluated daily on the study ward until the five-day course of antimicrobials was completed. After discharge, they were followed on days 7 and 14, or earlier if they returned to the health facility due to illness. Each day on the study ward and at every follow-up visit, the child was checked for, or parents were asked about, eating patterns, vomiting, convulsions, and the use of other medications. Each child was examined, and temperature was measured. A blood sample was taken for a thick malaria smear on days 1–4, 7, 14, or any sick visit, and hemoglobin was measured on day 14. The presence or absence of gametocytes was recorded. For all day 7 blood smears, gametocyte density was determined. Children classified as treatment failures were treated with oral quinine.

**Outcome measures.** Clinical and parasitologic outcomes were defined using a modified version of the World Health Organization definitions for clinical and parasitologic responses for areas of intense Plasmodium falciparum transmission, 2002.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Measure</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early treatment failure (ETF)</td>
<td>Development of danger signs or severe malaria on days 1, 2, or 3, in the presence of parasitemia; Parasitemia on day 3 with an aural temperature ≥ 38.0°C; Parasitemia on day 2 higher than on day 0; Parasitemia on day 3 ≥ 25% of day 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late clinical failure (LCF)</td>
<td>Development of danger signs or severe malaria after day 3 in the presence of parasitemia; Presence of parasitemia and aural temperature ≥ 38.0°C on any day from day 4 to day 14 or reported fever from day 5 to day 14, without previously meeting any of the criteria of ETF or LCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late parasitologic failure (LPF)</td>
<td>Presence of parasitemia on day 14, and aural temperature ≥ 38.0°C, without previously meeting any of the criteria of ETF or LCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate clinical and parasitologic response</td>
<td>Absence of parasitemia on day 14, irrespective of axillary temperature, without previously meeting any of the criteria for ETF, LCF, or LPF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Organization classification system for clinical and parasitologic response. Outcomes were classified as an early treatment failure (ETF), late clinical failure (LCF), late parasitologic failure (LPF), or adequate clinical and parasitologic response (ACPR). We included children with reported fever during the 24 hours prior to enrollment, regardless of their temperature on presentation. At follow-up visits, a reported fever during the previous 24 hours or an aural temperature ≥ 38.0°C were considered true fever when determining clinical response (Table 1).

To compare time until last fever, we used only measured temperatures. Temperatures were measured every six hours during the first five days, then daily on days 7 and 14, and at any unscheduled sick visit. The last febrile episode was defined as the last measured temperature ≥ 38.0 during the follow-up period. Children who had persistent fever at day 14 were censored in the analysis.

To compare results presented in this report with results from prior efficacy studies, we also present outcome data using the World Health Organization definitions for adequate clinical response (ACR) and for parasitologic outcome that were standard prior to the year 2003. An ACR can be calculated by combining the percentage of children with ACPR and LPF. In reporting parasitologic response, we combined late RI with sensitive responses because late RI (days 15–28) could not be assessed in this 14-day trial (Table 2).

**Statistical analysis.** Data were analyzed using SAS version 8.01 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC). Continuous variables were compared using the Student’s t-test or Wilcoxon rank sum test for nonparametric variables. Proportions were analyzed using chi-square test or two-tailed Fisher’s exact test. Time to drug failure and time to fever resolution were analyzed using the log rank test of Kaplan-Meier survival curves.

**RESULTS**

**Study population.** A total of 794 children came to the health facility with a history of fever and cough, and were found to have mixed IMCI classifications of malaria and pneumonia. Among them, 207 had parasitemia ≥ 2,000 parasites/μL of blood, fever within the previous 24 hours, and no exclusion criteria. Parents of 205 children consented to enrollment in the study.

Of the 205 enrolled children, 104 children were randomized to the TS arm and 101 children were randomized to the SP plus E arm. The clinical and parasitologic characteristics of the children and their illnesses are summarized in Table 3, and did not differ by treatment arm. Two children (one randomized to each of the treatment arms) were withdrawn from the study after enrollment because their mothers were needed at home. No children were lost to follow-up.

Three children developed danger signs after enrollment. One child died on day 0, approximately 10 hours after enrollment. The child had been moderately ill for two days prior to presentation, and had received no prior treatment. At enrollment, she had a temperature of 41°C, a heavy parasitemia (recorded as 4+), a hemoglobin level of 7.4 g/dL, and was alert without clinical signs of severe disease. Initially, the child responded to treatment, with a decrease in temperature to 37.5°C and a reduced respiratory rate, but decompensated and developed respiratory distress. Arrangements were made to transfer the child by ambulance to a referral hospital. Unfortunately, the child died en route. She was classified as an ETF. A second child, randomized to receive TS, who came to the health facility on day 0 with a hemoglobin level of 8.8 g/dL, and who responded to therapy with reduced fever, respiratory rate, and resolution of parasitemia, developed severe anemia on day 4 (hemoglobin level = 4.2 g/dL), and was

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**Table 2**

<table>
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<th>Parasitologic outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td>RIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>RII</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early RI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sensitive/late RI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Table 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of 205 children at enrollment</th>
<th>Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole</th>
<th>Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine plus erythromycin</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children enrolled</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>0.83*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median/mean age in months (range)</td>
<td>19.0/22.4 (6–59)</td>
<td>17.0/20.1 (6–52)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females (%)</td>
<td>44 (42)</td>
<td>39 (39)</td>
<td>0.67*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median/mean weight (range)</td>
<td>10.1/10.3 (6.6–16.8)</td>
<td>9.6/10.1 (5.8–16.2)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median/mean temperature (range)</td>
<td>39.3/38.9 (35.2–41.1)</td>
<td>38.4/38.9 (36.0–41.5)</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median/mean respiratory rate (range)</td>
<td>56/57 (40–96)</td>
<td>58/57 (40–88)</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median/geometric mean parasite density/μL of blood</td>
<td>28.089/45.139</td>
<td>30.386/65.885</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median/mean hemoglobin, g/dL (range)</td>
<td>8.8/8.6 (5.0–11.9)</td>
<td>8.1/8.3 (5.1–12.2)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) with reported prior sulfasoxine-pyrimethamine use</td>
<td>4 (3.9)</td>
<td>3 (3.0)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) with reported prior trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole use</td>
<td>6 (5.8)</td>
<td>7 (6.9)</td>
<td>0.78*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number (%) with diarrhea on presentation</td>
<td>8 (7.7)</td>
<td>12 (11.9)</td>
<td>0.31*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean/median number of days with fever prior to presentation at health facility (range)</td>
<td>2.0/2.8 (1–14)</td>
<td>2.0/2.6 (0–14)</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* By chi-square test.
† By Wilcoxon rank sum test.
‡ By Fisher’s exact test.
transported to a referral facility. She had no malaria parasites detectable in a blood film at the time of referral and did not qualify as an ETF or as RIII failure. Because we do not have subsequent blood films on this child, she was excluded from the analysis of clinical and parasitologic response. A third child who received TS developed signs of respiratory distress on day 1, was referred with parasites present, and was classified as an ETF. The first and third child could not be classified for parasitologic response because in both cases, there was no day 2 parasite density measurement.

Clinical response. A total of 202 (98.5%) of enrolled children had their clinical outcome evaluated. Among those 102 children who received TS, 89 (87.2%) achieved ACPR. Among the 100 children who received SP plus E, 80 (80.0%) were classified as ACPR. There was no significant difference in clinical and parasitologic response between the two treatment arms (Table 4 and Figure 1). However, the percentage of children who achieved ACR was higher in the TS arm (98 of 102 [96.1%]) than in the SP plus E arm (88 of 100 [88.0%]; P = 0.03).

A total of 159 children (78 in the TS arm and 81 in the SP plus E arm) came to the health facility with temperatures > 102°F [96.1%] than in the SP plus E arm (88 of 100 [88.0%]; P = 0.03). Children in both study arms had a temperature > 38.0°C on day 14 (P = 0.97). Among children with fever at presentation, the median time to fever resolution was 30 hours in the TS arm and 36 hours in the SP plus E arm. Children who received TS resolved fever sooner than those who received SP plus E (P = 0.03) (Figure 2).

Parasitologic response. A total of 199 (97.1%) children had data available to assess parasitologic response. Three children who did not meet criteria for parasitologic RIII classification were classified as ETF. There was no significant difference in parasitologic response to therapy in the two study arms (Table 5).

Factors influencing clinical and parasitologic outcome. Nutritional status was associated with treatment failure (defined as not achieving ACPR); children who had IMCI classifications of very low weight for age, which approximates a z-score < −2, were more likely to fail treatment than better nourished children (relative risk [RR] = 3.34, P = 0.03). There was no significant association between treatment failure and having a z-score < −2 (RR = 1.07, P = 1.00). There was no evidence that child’s age, weight, sex, temperature on admission, initial parasite density, hemoglobin level at admission, administration of iron supplementation, duration of fever prior to presentation, vomiting or diarrhea during illness, or TS or SP administration prior to presentation were associated with an increased risk of clinical or parasitologic failure.

Hematologic response. Hematologic response was measured in 199 (97.1%) children. Prevalence of anemia was similar at day 0. A total of 42.2% of the children in the TS arm and 49.0% of those in the SP plus E arm had an initial hemoglobin level ≤ 8 g/dL (P = 0.33). Children in both study arms had an increase from day 0 to day 14 in mean hemoglobin levels. The mean (± SD) hemoglobin increase between days 0 and 14 was 1.0 g/dL (± 1.7) in the TS arm and 1.1 g/dL (± 1.5) in the SP plus E arm (P = 0.76). On day 14, 10.8% of children in the TS arm and 13.3% of those in the SP plus E arm had a hemoglobin level ≤ 8 g/dL (P = 0.46).

Factors influencing hematologic outcome. Children who achieved ACPR had a greater increase in mean hemoglobin level between days 0 and 14 (1.14 g/dL) when compared with children who did not achieve ACPR (0.39 g/dL) (P = 0.004). Children with initial hemoglobin level ≥ 5.0 g/dL and ≤ 8.0 g/dL (46% of enrollees), all of whom received iron, had a greater increase in mean hemoglobin level between days 0 and 14 (1.49 g/dL) compared with children with initial hemoglobin level < 5.0 g/dL (P = 0.02).

### Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, % (n = 101)</th>
<th>Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine plus erythromycin, % (n = 98)</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RII</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RII</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERI</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/LRRI</td>
<td>86.1</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ERI = early RI; S/LRI = sensitive/late RI.

### Figure 1

Cumulative percentage of treatment failure, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TS) versus sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine plus erythromycin (SP + E), n = 202.

### Figure 2

Time to last recorded fever by study arm, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole versus sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine plus erythromycin (SP + E). CTX = cotrimoxazole.
greater mean increase in the hemoglobin level than those with
an initial hemoglobin level > 8.0 g/dL (1.99 g/dL versus 0.24
g/dL, respectively) \((P < 0.0001)\). A total of 16 children (9%),
8 in each study arm, received albendazole. There was no evi-
dence that child’s age, sex, nutritional status, albendazole ad-
ministration, or initial parasite density was associated with
hematologic outcome. Achieving ACPR was not significantly
associated with a decreased prevalence of anemia, and having
persistent asymptomatic parasitemia (LPF) was not associ-
ated with increased risk of anemia at day 14.

**Gametocyte response.** Gametocyte prevalence on day 7
was high and similar in both study arms. A total of 55% of
the children in the TS arm and 64% of the children in the SP plus
E arm had gametocytes detectable on day 7. Median (mean)
gametocyte density was 320 (723) gametocytes/µL of blood in
the TS arm with a range of 40–9,600 gametocytes/µL, and 180
(676) gametocytes/µL in the SP plus E arm with a range of
40–6,600 gametocytes/µL, \((P = 0.23)\). Risk factors for gam-
etocytemia on day 7 included an initial hemoglobin level
\(\geq 5\) g/dL and \(\leq 8\) g/dL when compared with a hemoglobin
level > 8 g/dL \((RR = 1.26, 95\% \text{ confidence interval } [CI] =
1.01–1.58)\) and fever duration less than three days prior to
presentation when compared with fever of longer duration
\((RR = 1.30, 95\% \text{ CI } 1.03–1.64)\).

**Adverse drug effects.** One child vomited TS within 30
minutes after administration. A second dose was successfully ad-
ministered. No child had a rash or other notable adverse reaction. Sixteen (15.5\%) children adminis-
tered TS and 11 (11\%) children administered SP plus E vom-
ited during their illness \((P = 0.34)\).

**DISCUSSION**

We found that both TS and SP plus E, when used for chil-
dren with dual IMCI classifications of malaria and pneumo-
nia, are efficacious, well-tolerated options for the treatment of
*P. falciparum* malaria. This finding, a full nine years after
SP was adopted as first-line antimalarial therapy in Malawi, is
encouraging, and suggests that *P. falciparum* antifolate resis-
tance may not be increasing at the rate observed in other east
African countries, and that cross-resistance development is
not currently jeopardizing the usefulness of TS for treatment
of malaria in children with concomitant classification of pneu-
monia.

Importantly, we still do not know the effectiveness of TS,
that is, how well it works when administered at home, outside
of the study setting. The effectiveness will depend largely on
the caregiver’s adherence to a five-day treatment course. In a
study of TS antimalarial effectiveness in The Gambia, only
67\% of the patients adhered to the TS five-day treatment
course.\(^2\) In Uganda, where the clinical efficacy of SP for *P.
falciparum* infection is as high as 90\%, clinical effectiveness
among children with malaria treated with TS varied from
59\% to 90\%, depending on the study site.\(^9\)\(^10\) The investiga-
tors speculate one reason for the poor treatment response
may have been non-adherence to the five-day drug treatment
regimen. There are no recent data on the antimalarial efficacy
of a shortened course of TS.

A series of SP efficacy studies conducted throughout
Malawi since 1993 show a steady decrease in clinical and para-
sitologic efficacy. However, in most of these studies, ACR
remains greater than 80\% (Table 6). The level of SP plus E
efficacy found in our study is on the higher end of findings
from other SP efficacy studies. It should be noted that eryth-
romycin does have mild antimalarial properties, which may
have increased the efficacy of SP in our study.

We found that malnourished children were less likely to
achieve ACPR than their well-nourished counterparts. Mal-
nutrition has been described previously as a risk factor for
antimalarial treatment failure among children living in a refu-

**TABLE 6**

Recent studies measuring the efficacy of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) in Malawi*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study year</th>
<th>SP clinical efficacy % (ACR at day 14, unless otherwise indicated)</th>
<th>SP parasitologic efficacy %</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001 (1)</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>SP plus erythromycin (E) children 6–59 months old, 14 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 (2)</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>5 studies conducted yearly at one peri-urban site. Patients &gt; 3 months old, 28 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>386</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>146</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 (3)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years old, 14 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 (4)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years old, 14 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997–1998 (5)</td>
<td>100‡</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years old, 14 day follow-up. 7 sentinel sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>86</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995 (6)</td>
<td>89§</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Children 6–59 months old, 28 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 (7)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years old, 28 day follow-up at 2 sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 (8)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years old, 28 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986 (9)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years old, 21 day follow-up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^*\) ACR = adequate clinical response.

† 1 = Current publication; SP + E, Parasitologic efficacy defined as sensitive/late R1 (S/LR1) at day 14; 2 = Parasitologic efficacy defined as initial parasitemia cleared and all blood films negative by day 14; 3, Parasitologic efficacy defined as S/LR1 at day 14; 4, Parasitologic efficacy defined as S/LR1 at day 14; 5 = Parasitologic efficacy defined as S/LR1 at day 14; 6 = Parasitologic efficacy defined as S/LR1 at day 14; 7 = Parasitologic efficacy defined as sensitive/R1 at day 14; 8 = Parasitologic efficacy defined as sensitive/R1 at day 14; 9 = Parasitologic efficacy defined as no parasites present on day 21.

‡ Clinical efficacy defined as an axillary temperature \(\geq 37.5^\circ\text{C}\) on days 7 and 14.
gee camp. Malawi has regular periods of drought and famine; those coming to a health facility with malnutrition and malaria will need close follow-up to confirm adequate treatment of their malaria parasitemia.

Several studies have documented high gametocytemia prevalence associated with SP treatment when compared with other antimalarial drugs, with peak gametocyte prevalence occurring around day 7 following treatment. To our knowledge, this is the first study to demonstrate a similar increase in gametocytemia after treatment with TS. Gametocytes, the sexual form of the malaria parasite, are infective to the mosquito and responsible for malaria transmission. A study of gametocyte infectivity following treatment with SP and other antimalarials has documented persistent transmissibility following antimalarial therapy. It remains unknown whether transmission of these gametocytes results in transmission of mutant resistant genotypes. Furthermore, it is unclear if the transmission of mutant resistant genotypes would significantly contribute to drug resistance in an area where transmission is already high. More research will be needed to explore these questions.

In conclusion, we found that at Chilomoni Health Center, both TS and SP plus E are efficacious, well-tolerated treatment options for uncomplicated P. falciparum malaria among children with IMCI classifications of malaria and pneumonia. Children with malnutrition are especially prone to fail therapy, and in times of famine, health workers will need to be diligent in reminding caretakers to return for follow-up to confirm the child has successfully responded to treatment or to change the child to a second-line drug therapy. If Ministries of Health continue to choose TS as a treatment choice for IMCI dual classifications of malaria and pneumonia, it will be important to measure adherence to the five-day TS treatment course.

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Authors’ addresses: Mary J. Hamel, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Kenya Medical Research Institute Research Station, APO AE 09831, Telephone: 254-57-20-22902, Fax: 254-57-20-22981, E-mail: mhamel@ke.cdc.gov. Timothy Holtz, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333, Telephone: 404-639-3311, Fax: 770-488-7761, E-mail: holtzt@cdc.gov. Christopher Mkandala and Nyokase Kaimila, Blantyre District Health Office, Private Bag 66, Blantyre, Malawi and Telephone and Fax: 265-1-676-071, E-mails: cmkandala@yahoo.com and nkaimila@cdcmalaria.org. Nyson Chizani, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Malawi Malaria Program, Private Bag 240, Blantyre, Malawi, Telephone: 265-1-676-071, Fax: 265-1-677-371, E-mail: chizanim@cdcmalaria.org. Peter Biodland, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333, Telephone: 770-488-7755, Fax: 770-488-7761, E-mail: pbiodland@cdc.gov. James Kublin, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, 1100 Fairview Avenue, PO Box 19024, Seattle, WA 98109, Telephone: 206-667-1970, Fax: 206-667-4411, E-mail: jkublin@fhcrc.org. Peter Kazembe, Malawi Ministry of Health, Lilongwe, Malawi, Telephone: 265-8-822-447, E-mail: pkazenbe@malawi.net. Richard Steketee, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, 1455 NW Leary Way, Seattle, WA 98107, Telephone: 206-285-3500, Fax: 206-285-6619, E-mail: rsi1@cdc.gov.

Reprint requests: Mary J. Hamel, Malaria Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Kenya Medical Research Institute Research Station, Unit 64112, APO, AE, 09831.

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