Dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine fixed-dose combination tablets

MSF considers dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine as an efficacious, safe and cost effective medicine for the treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria. A once daily dosage is available that compares favourably with the twice a day dosage for artemether + lumefantrine.

We note that while the most recent WHO Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria (March 2010) includes dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine as an artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) option for the first-line treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria, no marketed version of this product has satisfied the quality requirement: the Sigma-tau version of dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine is not yet WHO pre-qualified nor registered in countries with stringent Drug Regulatory Authorities.

Partly as a consequence, only two countries (Vietnam and Cambodia) have officially listed dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine as their national first-line treatments.

MSF therefore supports the inclusion of dihydroartemisinin/piperaquine but notes that the practical relevance of its inclusion is dependent on the availability of affordable and WHO pre-qualified version.

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