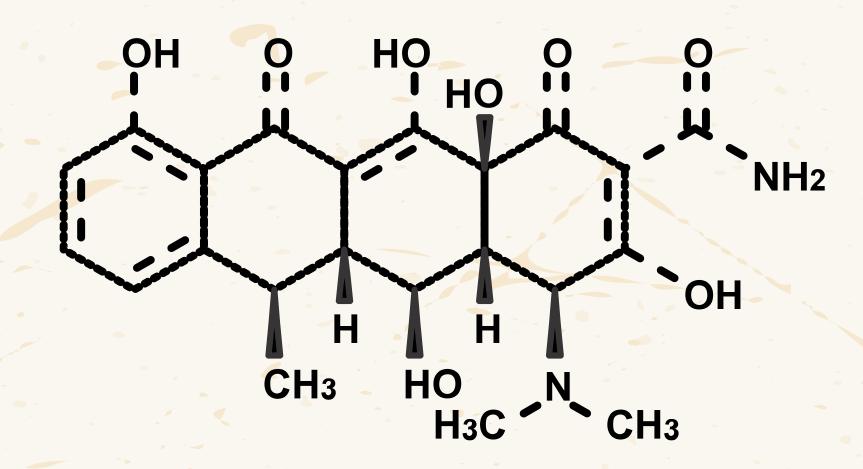
# UNDERSTANDING DOXYCYCLINE

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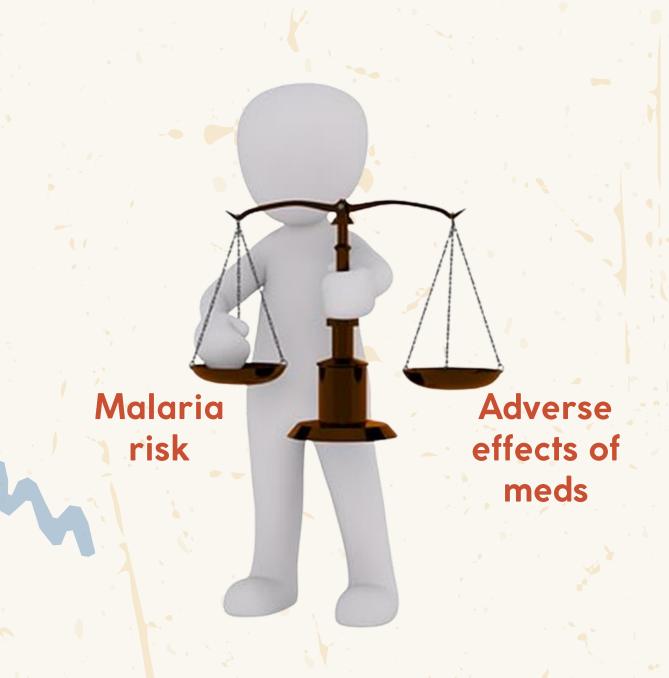
Safe (well tolerated)

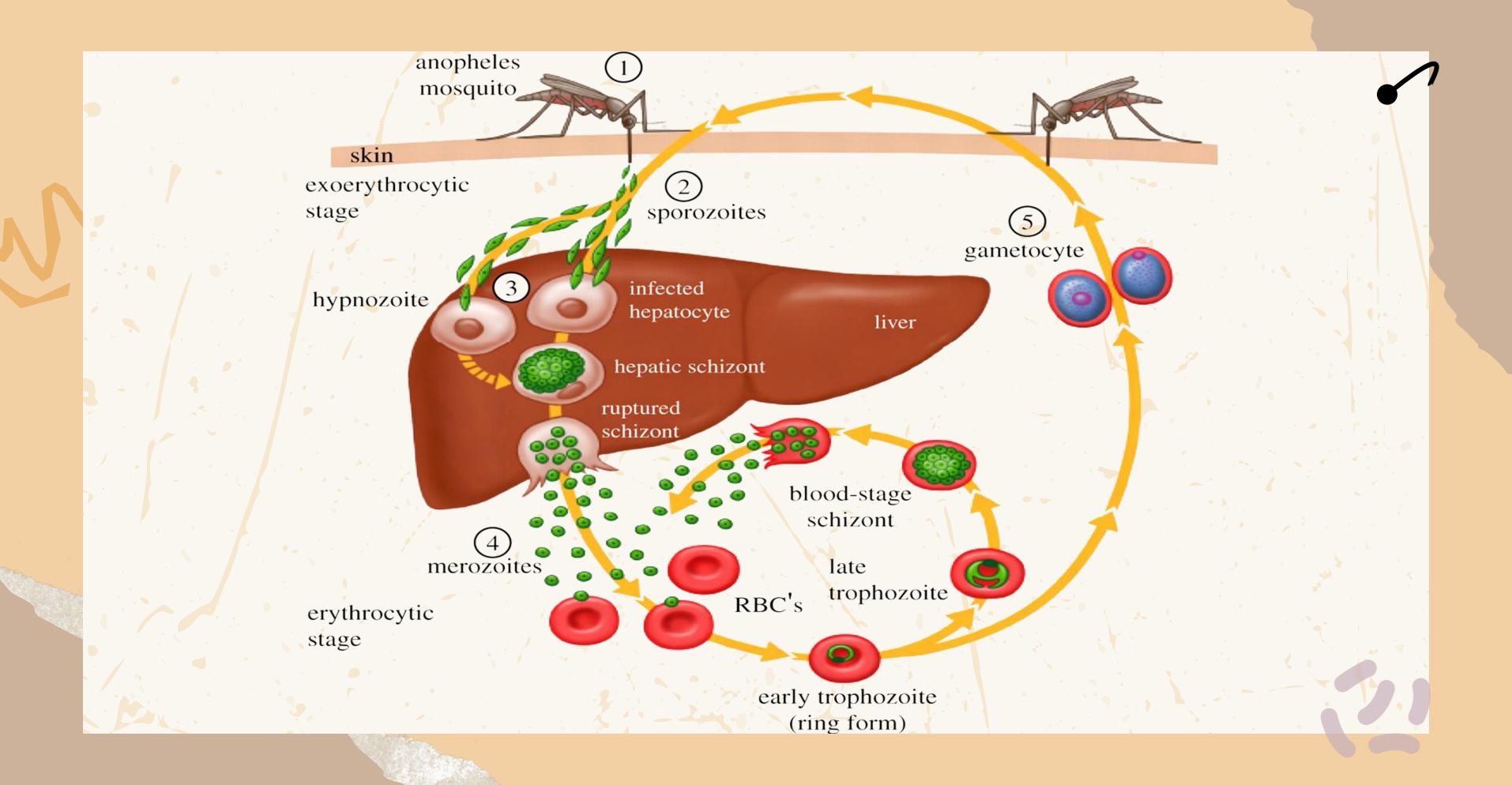
Indicated for all

simple regime

Readily available

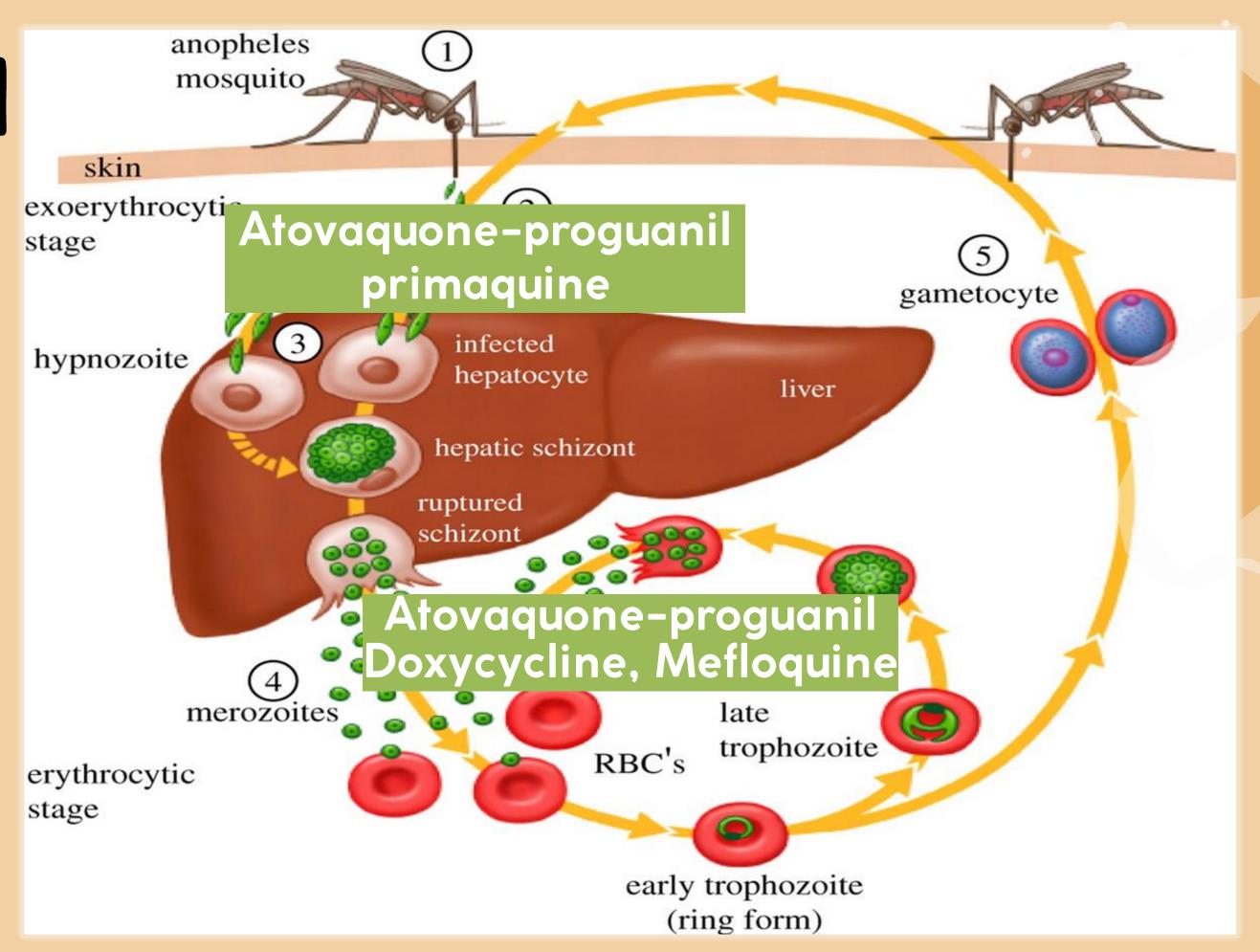
Affordable





# MECHANISM OF ACTION





# SUPPRESSIVE VS CAUSAL PROPHYLACTICS

## Suppressive prophylactics:

Agents that act on the erythrocytic stages, (i.e. once the parasite has invaded the red blood cells.

These are blood schizonticides. (Doxycycline and mefloquine)

#### Causal prophylactics:

Agents that destroy the exo-erythrocytic forms of the parasite. These are tissue schizonticides.

(Atovaquone/proguanil)

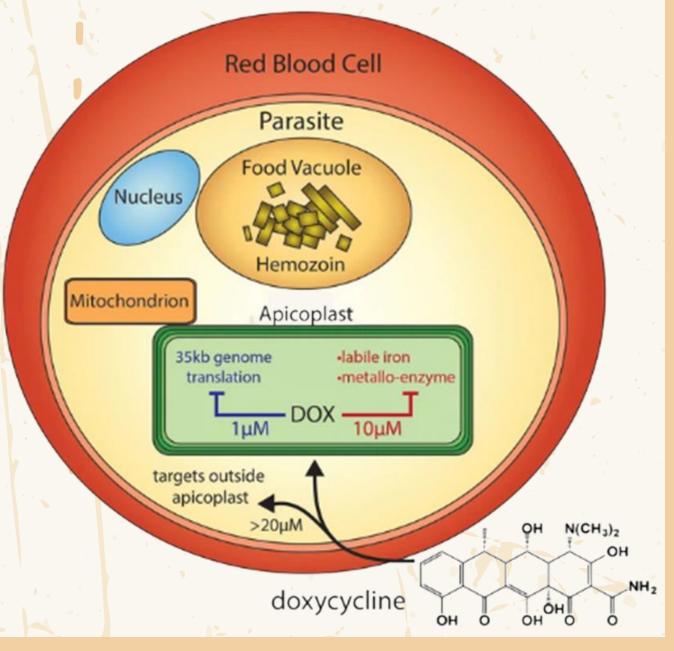
## DOXYCYCLINE MECHANISM OF ACTION IN PREVENTING MALARIA

Suppressive prophylactic

Slow acting blood schizontocidal agent



Thought to kill
Plasmodium parasites
by blocking protein
translation in the
essential apicoplast
organelle (responsible
for parasite survival
and replication).



## EFFICACY OF DOXYCYCLINE



## Kenyan study of 169 children ages 9-14 years:

- 84% Effective at preventing parasitaemia
- 91% Effective at preventing clinical malaria

## 3 Randomised placebo-controlled trials:

- 92-96% Effective as prophylaxis for *P. falciparum*
- 98% Effective as prophylaxis for *P. vivax*

COMPARATIVE EFFICACY



Doxycycline is as effective as mefloquine

Lariam\* 250 mg Tablets

>90% effective as prophylaxis:

Mefloquine Doxycycline Atovaquone/proguanil

"the absolute risk of malaria during short-term travel appears low with all three established antimalarial agents"



	Mefloquine	Doxycycline	Atovaquone -proguanil
Pregnancy	use	CI	CI
Children	Use >5kg	>8 years	>11kgs
HIV +ve	Potential DI	Use	Potential DI
Epilepsy	CI	Use, but some DI	Use
Psychiatric conditions	Cl, even if there is only a history	Use	Use
Long term travellers	3 years +	2 years +	1 year +

## DOXYCYCLINE DRUG INTERACTIONS

Other drug	Comment	
Alcohol	Alcoholism may reduce doxycycline concentrations below therapeutic levels, does not apply to acute alcohol intake	
Antacids	Reduce absorption of doxycycline, take 2 hours before or 4-6 hours after antacids	
Iron	Reduce absorption of doxycycline, give iron 3 hours before or 2 hours after doxycycline	
Carbamazepine, barbiturates and phenytoin	May reduce efficacy of doxycycline	
Isotretinoin	Increased risk of pseudotumor cerebri	
Rifampicin	Increase doxycycline clearance and reduce efficacy	
Warfarin	May increase anticoagulation effect, monitor INR	

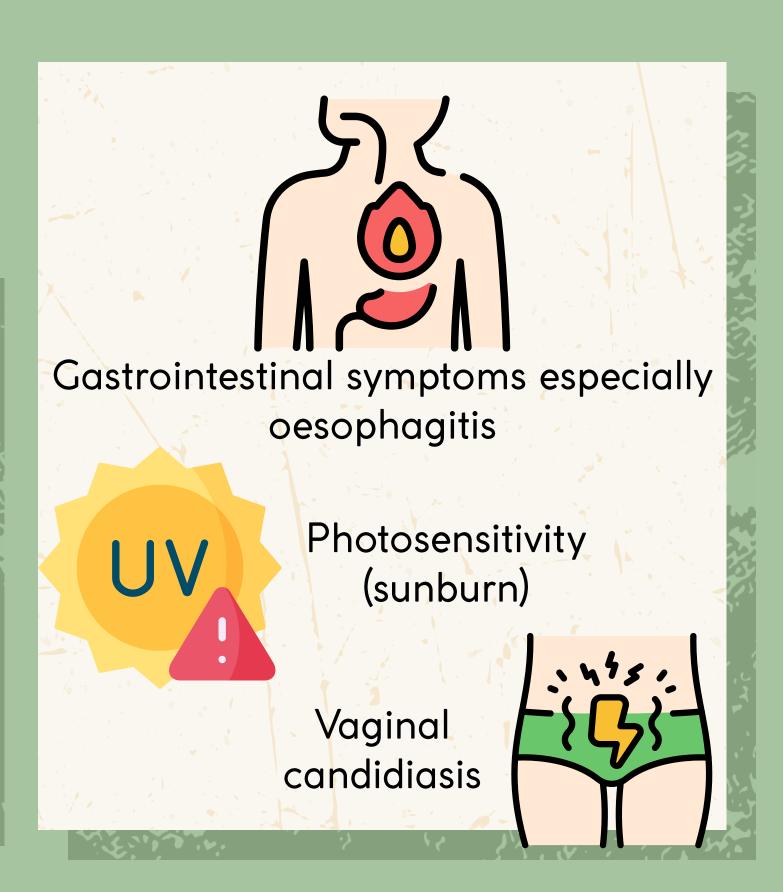
### SAFETY OF DOXYCYCLINE



Take after a meal with a full glass of water and don't lie down immediately.

Apply effective sunscreen preparation.







Elimination half-life is 15-24 hours

Dose: 100mg daily or 2mg/kg daily (>8 years of age)

Start 1-2 days before entering and continue for 4 weeks after returning from high-risk area

# DOXYCYCLINE IS AVAILABLE FOR FREE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR!



#### PRIMARY HEALTHCARE LEVEL STG CHAPTER 10: INFECTIONS AND RELATED CONDITIONS

#### MEDICINE TREATMENT

#### **Prophylaxis**

#### CAUTION

Immunocompromised patients, pregnant women and children <8 years of age should avoid visiting malaria-endemic areas, as they are more prone to the serious complications of malaria.

However, if this cannot be avoided, malaria chemoprophylaxis should be considered (as recommended by the National Guidelines for the Prevention of Malaria (2018) found at: <a href="https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Guidelines-for-prevention-of-Malaria updated-08012019-1.pdf">https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Guidelines-for-prevention-of-Malaria updated-08012019-1.pdf</a>

However, as only doxycycline is provided in the public sector, alternative options for pregnant women and children <8 years of age need to be purchased in the private sector.)

#### Non-pregnant adults:

- Doxycycline oral, 100 mg daily.
  - Take from 2 days prior to entering endemic area until 4 weeks after exiting the endemic area.

#### Children ≥8 years of age:

- Doxycycline oral, 2 mg/kg/dose daily.
  - Take from 2 days prior to entering endemic area until 4 weeks after exiting the endemic area.

Note: Doxycycline is contra-indicated in pregnant women, and in children <8 years of age.

## PROFILE OF DOXYCYCLINE

#### **ADVANTAGES**

Need only start 1–2 days before entering malaria area Very few contraindications

Available without a prescription for malaria prophylaxis

#### DISADVANTAGES

Daily dose for 4 weeks upon return – compliance may be a concern

Can't be used in children under the age of 8 years

Contraindicated in pregnancy and lactation

Side effects include photosensitivity and candidiasis

Risk of oesophagitis

## POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN TAKING DOXYCYCLINE



Compliance is of major importance.



Do not miss any doses – doxycycline is unforgiving, miss a dose, and prophylactic failure may occur.



Start before entering the malaria area.



Continue prophylaxis for 4 weeks after leaving the area.



Take after a meal with a full glass of water and don't lie down immediately.



Apply effective sunscreen preparation.

## THANK YOU



"Doxie cycling"

