SHORT REPORT

MANAGEMENT OF PLASMODIUM KNOWLESI MALARIA WITHOUT PCR CONFIRMATION

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Abstract. \textit{Plasmodium knowlesi} morphologically resembles \textit{P. malariae}; PCR assays are able to differentiate between the 2 species correctly. However, PCR is not available in many hospitals in \textit{P. knowlesi} endemic areas, particularly in Southeast Asia. In places where PCR is not available, anti-malarial drugs for \textit{P. malariae} or other non-\textit{P. falciparum} or \textit{P. falciparum} species are effective against \textit{P. knowlesi}. Even with a wrong diagnosis of another malaria species by light microscopy instead of \textit{P. knowlesi}, the antimalarial drugs given are still effective for treating \textit{P. knowlesi} infection.

Key words: \textit{Plasmodium knowlesi}, management, PCR