

Abstract: A call for safe co-prescribing of anti TB medications and Antimalarials

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Abstract: A call for research into safe co-prescribing of anti TB medications and Antimalarials

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Background

Individuals taking medicines for TB and latent TB are just as likely as other travellers to require preventative medications; including antimalarials, anti-sickness medications, antihistamines. We performed a literature review to examine potential interactions between common travel medications and anti TB medications

Materials and methods

A literature review search was carried out in across MEDLINE and EMBASE. Articles written in English, with abstracts containing relevant search terms and published in peer-reviewed journals in the last twenty years were included.

Results:

The EMBASE search yielded 77 results, the Medline search 42 results. Duplicates were removed and upon reading the abstracts, ten studies pertained specifically to the interactions between anti-malarial and anti-TB agents. Three additional studies were identified from references within these ten studies. Although anti-diarrhoeal agents, medications for motion sickness and altitude sickness were included in the search terms, these searches yielded no results.

Conclusion

There is a lack of evidence to guide decision making when prescribing common medications used in travellers who also require anti-TB agents. The existing small body of evidence would suggest that artemether-lumefantrine prophylaxis needs to be dose adjusted or avoided when prescribed in patients taking common anti-TB agents such as rifampicin and moxifloxacin given the risk of QT prolongation. Further studies examining interactions between other anti-TB agents, antimalarials and common medications taken by travellers are urgently needed for our travellers.