

SAQ 8

A 34 year old man presents 10 days after a business trip to Papua New Guinea. He has had fevers, malaise, generalised aches and frequent episodes of diarrhoea. HR 130 BP 100/50 Temp 38 Sats 98% on air.

List 10 potential causes of fever & illness in this man

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What blood tests will you request?

Investigation	Justification

List 5 major complications of severe Plasmodium falciparum malaria.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What are the two main choices for the urgent initial treatment of severe Plasmodium falciparum malaria?

- 1.
- 2.

SAQ returned traveller - answers

A 34 year old man presents 10 days after a business trip to Papua New Guinea. He has had fevers, malaise, generalised aches and frequent episodes of diarrhoea. HR 130 BP 100/50 Temp 38 Sats 98% on air.

List 10 potential causes of fever & illness in this man - any 10 of:

Malaria
Dengue
Typhoid/paratyphoid
GIT infections – cholera, shigella, salmonella, E coli diarrhoea, giardiasis etc
Viral hepatitis
Typhus/rickettsial diseases
Melioidosis
Japanese or Australian (Murray Valley) encephalitis
Non-exotic/"normal" infections – LRTI, UTI, STI, cellulitis etc etc etc

What blood tests will you request?

Investigation	Justification
FBC	Part of fever workup. ?malaria → anaemia
EUC	Unwell, diarrhoea → potential derangement
LFT	Hepatitis possible
Blood culture	Part of workup
Malaria films	Ideally 3 sets over 48 hours (practice varies)
Falciparum +/- vivax antigen	> 95% sensitive for PF

List 5 major complications of severe Plasmodium falciparum malaria – any 5 of:

Haemolysis/anaemia
Splenic enlargement/rupture
Cerebral malaria – delirium, coma, seizures
ARF
Non-cardiogenic pulmonary oedema
Hypoglycaemia
Lactic acidosis

What are the two main choices for the urgent initial treatment of severe Plasmodium falciparum malaria?

1. Artesunate (2.4mg/kg IV) then oral
2. Quinine (20mg/kg IVI over 4 hours)