



# From field experience to the discovery of antimalarials: **Partnerships in action**

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# Review of clinical experience with the artesunate-amodiaquine fixed-dose combination "ASAQ FDC" (Coarsucam<sup>®</sup>)

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# Simplified 3-Day Dose Regimen of ASAQ

## Artesunate-amodiaquine fixed-dose combination

3 dosage strengths  
available

Infants (4.5-8 kg)



AS: 25 mg  
AQ: 67.5 mg

Young Children (8-17 kg)



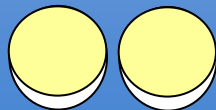
AS: 50 mg  
AQ: 135 mg

Children (17-35 kg)



AS: 100 mg  
AQ: 270 mg

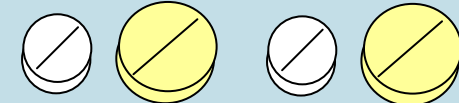
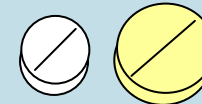
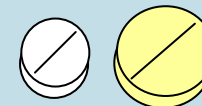
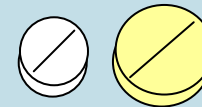
Adults ( $\geq 36$  kg)



AS: 100 mg  
AQ: 270 mg

## Co-blistered non-fixed AS+AQ Artesunate-amodiaquine

AS: 50 mg; AQ 153 mg





# Artesunate-amodiaquine Fixed-Dose Combination (ASAQ FDC)

**Optimized 2.7 AS:AQ ratio** to prevent over- and under-dosing. Taylor et al. *Bulletin of the WHO*. 2006; 84; 956-964.

**Age- or weight-based dosing**

**Fewer tablets, once-a-day treatment regimen**

**Soluble tablets**

ASAQ FDC versus loose association (AS+AQ)  
for uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria (Burkina-Faso study)

ASAQ FDC versus AL FDC  
for uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria (ATAQ EASY study)

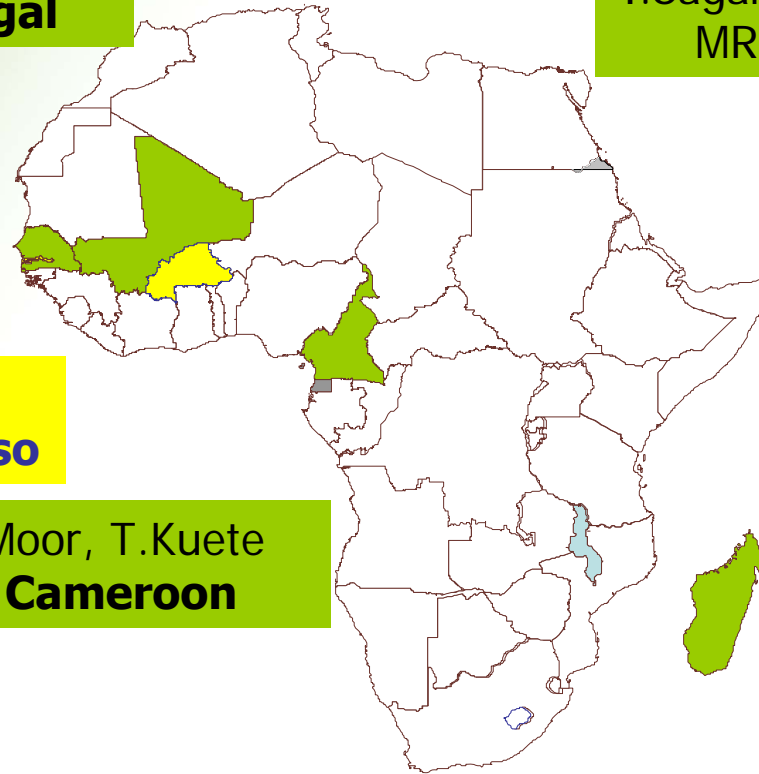
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# Burkina Faso Study

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## Objectives, Burkina Faso Study

### **Primary objective :**

- to demonstrate the non inferiority of ASAQ FDC versus AS+AQ loose association (WHO protocol, 28 day follow-up)

### **Secondary objectives :**

- Parasitological and fever clearances,
- clinical and biological tolerability



## Methods, Burkina-Faso study

**Open randomized controlled trial** (Oct 2004 – Feb 2006)

**2 arms:**

- ASAQ FDC, one intake a day
- AS+AQ loose association, one intake a day

**750 children aged 6 to 59 months,  $\geq 5$  kg**

**Acute uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria**  
(parasitemia  $> 1000$  / $\mu$ l)

**Dosage according to age range**





## Efficacy results, Burkina-Faso study

Dataset	ASAQ FDC	Loose AS+AQ
PP	N=342	N=340
D28 Cure Rate	<b>92.11%</b>	<b>92.06%</b>
$(\Delta = -0.0005; 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.0345; 0.0335])$		
mPP	N=329	N=326
D28 Cure Rate	<b>95.74%</b>	<b>96.01%</b>
$(\Delta = -0.0005; 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.0345; 0.0335])$		

**Non-inferiority of fixed-dose ASAQ versus AS+AQ demonstrated in all datasets (ITT included)**



## Safety results, Burkina Faso : Withdrawals due to treatment intolerance

	<b>FDC ASAQ n=375</b>	<b>Loose AS+AQ n=374</b>
AE leading to treatment discontinuation (Vomiting/spitting out)	13 (3.5%)	14 ( 3.7%)



## **Safety Results, Burkina Faso : Serious Adverse Events**

### **ASAQ FDC, n=6**

Severe malaria: 4

Death :1 (severe malaria)

Gastroenteritis:1

### **Loose AS+AQ, n= 6**

Severe malaria: 5

Death:1 (severe malaria)



# **ATAQ-EASY Study**

**(Multi-centre, Multi-national ASAQ-FDC)**



## Methods

Randomized, blinded, multicentre study in Cameroon, Mali Senegal and Madagascar (Mar-Dec 2006)

### 3 arms

- **Fixed dose ASAQ 1 intake a day (+ placebo)**
- **Fixed dose ASAQ 2 intakes a day**
- **Fixed dose AL 2 intakes a day**

941 adults and children over 10 kg

Uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria (parasitemia  $\geq 1000/\mu\text{l}$ )

Dosage according to bodyweight range



# Objectives

## **Primary objective :**

- to demonstrate the non inferiority of ASAQ FDC once daily dose versus AL FDC (WHO 2003 protocol, 28 day follow-up)

## **Secondary objectives :**

- Comparison of efficacy in the 3 arms
- Parasitological and fever clearances,
- clinical and biological tolerability.



## Efficacy Results: Primary endpoint

PCR corrected D28 cure rate (PP population)	ASAQ FDC 1 intake n=283	AL FDC 2 intakes n=289
ETF	0	0
LCF	0	1 (0.3%)
LPF	3 (1.1%)	3 (1.0%)
<b>ACPR</b>	<b>280 (98.9%)</b>	<b>285 (98.6%)</b>

The two-sided 90% CI of the difference in the proportions of ACPR is : [-0.02 ; **0.01**].  
Upper limit of CI < 0.05 ( non-inferiority delta)

**Non-inferiority of ASAQ FDC once a day versus AL FDC  
demonstrated in all datasets**



# Efficacy Results: Secondary Endpoints

IC [-0.03 ; 0.00]

IC [-0.03 ; 0.00]

PCR corrected D28 cure rate (PP population)	FDC ASAQ 1 intake n=283	FDC ASAQ 2 intakes n=285	FDC AL 2 intakes n=289
ETF	0	0	0
LCF	0	0	1 (0.3%)
LPF	3 (1.1%)	0	3 (1.0%)
<b>ACPR</b>	<b>280 (98.9%)</b>	<b>285 (100.0%)</b>	<b>285 (98.6%)</b>

**Non-inferiority of ASAQ FDC twice day versus AL FDC demonstrated in all datasets**





# Efficacy Results in children < 5 years

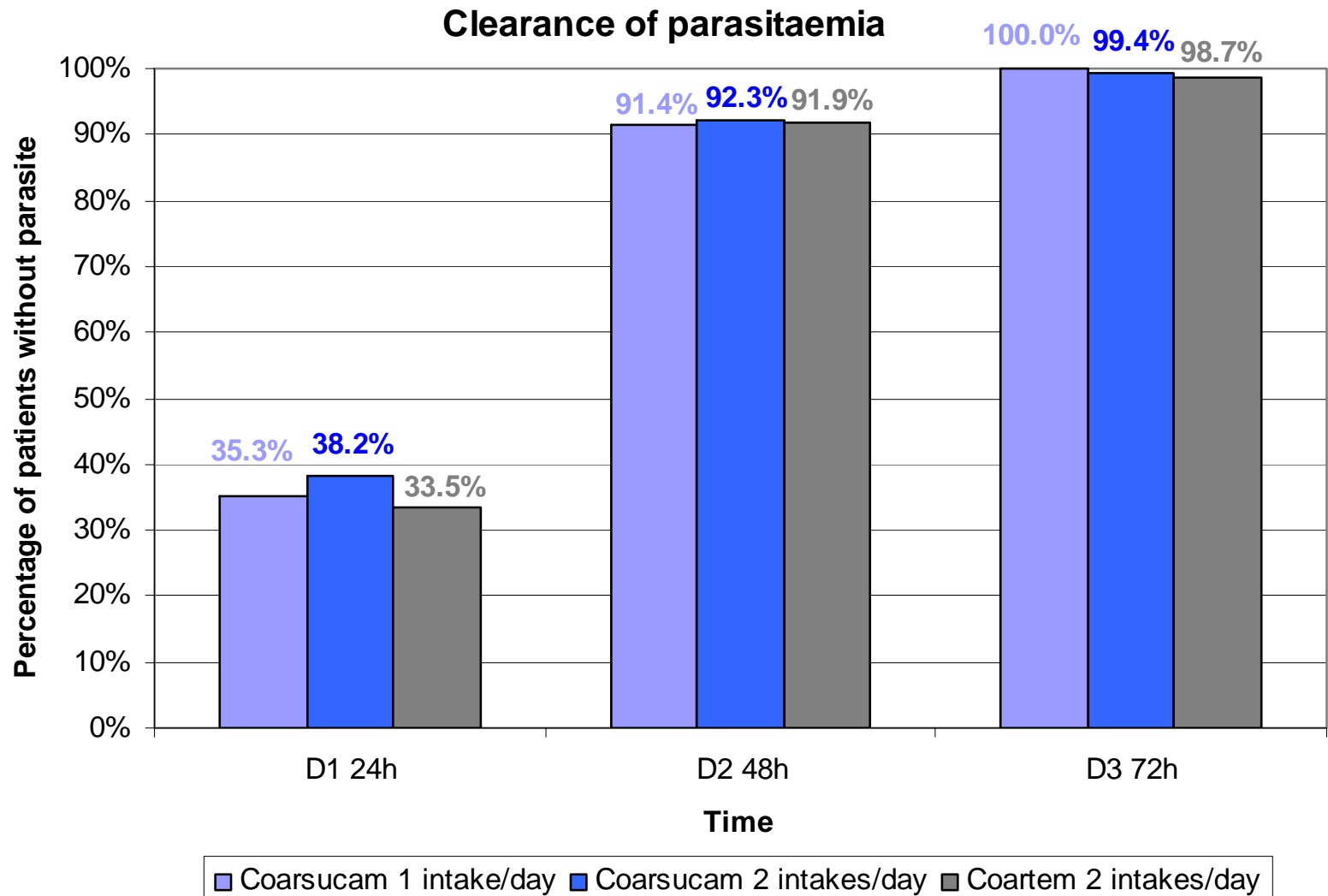
IC:[-0.06 ; 0.04]).

Efficacy evaluation on D28 PCR correction on the ITT population	FDC ASAQ 1 intake n=143	FDC ASAQ 2 intakes n=148	FDC AL 2 intakes n=142
<b>Age &lt; 5 years</b>			
Possible failure	6 (4.2%)	6 (4.1%)	4 (2.8%)
ETF	0	0	0
LCF	0	0	2 (1.4%)
LPF	2 (1.4%)	0	3 (2.1%)
<b>ACPR</b>	<b>135 (94.4%)</b>	<b>142 (95.9%)</b>	<b>133 (93.7%)</b>

**Non-inferiority of ASAQ FDC versus AL FDC demonstrated in all datasets**



# Efficacy Results: parasitological clearance





## Safety Results

Rejection or vomiting in the half hour post treatment administration between D0 and D2

Vomiting or Rejection	ASAQ FDC 1 intake n=313	ASAQ FDC 2 intakes n=315	AL FDC 2 intakes n=312
< 5 years	30/146 (20.5%)	30/148 (20.3%)	22/142 (15.5%)
[5; 14[ years	10/105 (9.5%)	15/113 (13.3%)	10/112 (8.9%)
≥ 14 years	2/62 (3.2%)	2/54 (3.7%)	1/58 (1.7%)
<b>P-value</b> (Khi <sup>2</sup> test)	0.0013	0.0115	0.0126

**Significant statistical differences between age ranges**

**No significant difference among treatment groups**



## **Safety Results : Serious Adverse Events**

### **ASAQ FDC once daily, n=2 :**

Anemia + lung infection (death)

Anemia (full recovery after hospitalization)

### **AL FDC twice daily, n=1**

Coma (death)



## **Safety : gastro-intestinal AEs**

### **Incidence of vomiting after Day 0**

#### **BURKINA-FASO Study**

Nausea and vomiting were  $< 2\%$  over course of study

#### **Multi-centre, multi-national study**

Nausea and vomiting : min 0.3%, max 6% in all groups

**No significant difference among treatment groups**



## **Safety : Biological Safety Data**

### **Laboratory Tests**

- Hematology:
  - leucocytes, neutrophils, platelets, hemoglobin
- Biochemistry:
  - AST, ALT, bilirubin, and creatinine

**No significant difference among treatment groups in either study**



## Conclusions

### **Burkina-Faso Study (patients' no. = 750)**

- Non-inferiority of ASAQ FDC vs loose AS+AQ association
- Comparable clinical and biological safety in the 2 groups of treatment; no unexpected adverse event

### **ATAQ EASY Study (patients' no. = 941)**

- Non-inferiority of ASAQ FDC vs AL FDC demonstrated, including in children under 5 years of age
- Comparable clinical and biological safety in the 3 groups of treatment; no unexpected adverse event



## ASAQ key post-launch issues

- Efficacy/effectiveness in various geographic areas
- Safety
  - Confirm safety profile in larger numbers of patients
  - Adults
  - Repeated administrations
  - Co-administered treatments
  - Concomitant conditions
  - Safety in first trimester of pregnancy
- Development of parasite resistance
- Compliance and its impact on
  - Efficacy, safety, quality of life, economics ?





**Thank you for attention !**

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