

SHORT REPORT

VITAMIN K INJECTION IN SPONTANEOUS BLEEDING AND COAGULOPATHY IN SEVERE MALARIA: PROS AND CONS

Polrat Wilairatana^{1,3}, Srivicha Krudsood^{2,3} and Noppadon Tangpukdee¹

¹Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine, ²Department of Tropical Hygiene, ³WHO Collaborating Center for Clinical Management of Malaria, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Abstract. Not all clinicians give vitamin K to severe malaria patients with systemic bleeding. Vitamin K injections may not be useful to stop bleeding in severe malaria patients with predominant hepatocellular jaundice. However, vitamin K may be justified in bleeding patients who have prolonged fasting of more than 3-7 days, underlying malnutrition, or predominant cholestatic jaundice. The decision to give vitamin K to severe malaria patients with systemic bleeding should be based on underlying diseases, type of jaundice, risk for vitamin K deficiency, and allergy to the drug.

Key words: severe malaria, vitamin K, spontaneous bleeding, coagulopathy

Correspondence: Dr Polrat Wilairatana, Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, 420/6 Ratchawithi Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

Tel: +66 (0) 2354 9159; Fax: +66 (0) 2354 9158

E-mail: tmpwl@mahidol.ac.th