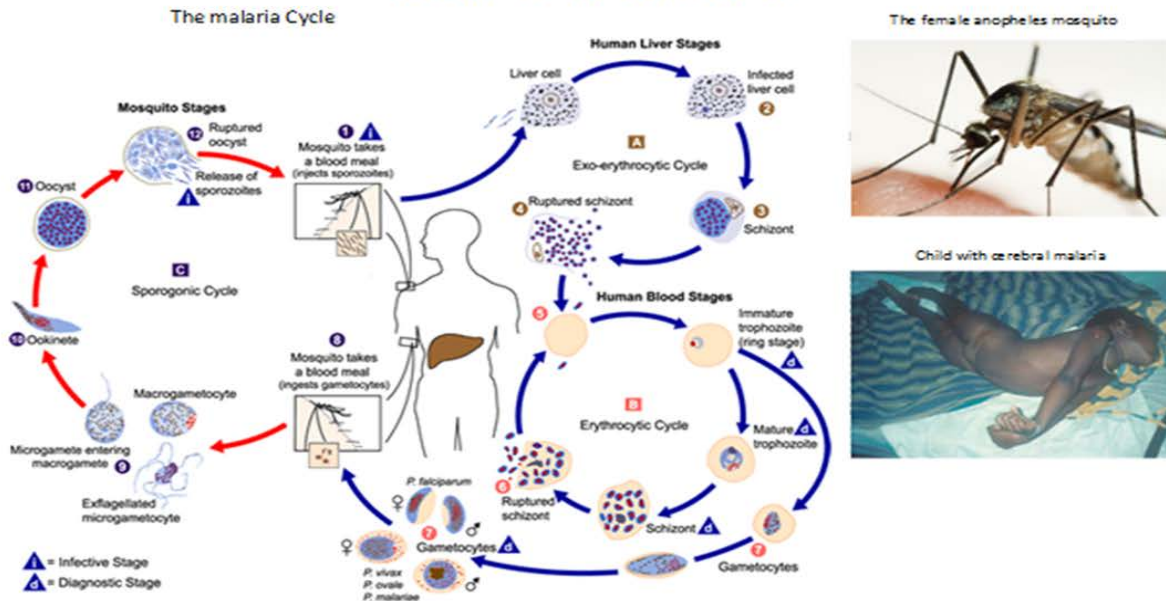


FROM THE PAST

MALARIA



The female anopheles mosquito



Child with cerebral malaria



Malaria is transmitted to man by the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito. The causative organism is the *Plasmodium*.

The important plasmodia that cause human malaria are *P. falciparum*, *P. vivax* and *P. malariae*.

It is characterized clinically by fever, which is often periodic; varying degrees of anaemia; splenic enlargement; and various syndromes resulting from the physiological and pathological involvement of certain organs including the brain, the liver and the kidneys.

Malaria kills about one million people a year worldwide. It is the leading killer in under 5 mortality in Ghana.

About \$772 million (this constitutes 6% of GDP) is spent yearly to treat malaria in Ghana.

Treatment: Historically, first with quinine. Later chloroquine was the standard. Resistance to drugs is a worrying problem. Current treatment is Artesunate + Amodiaquine.