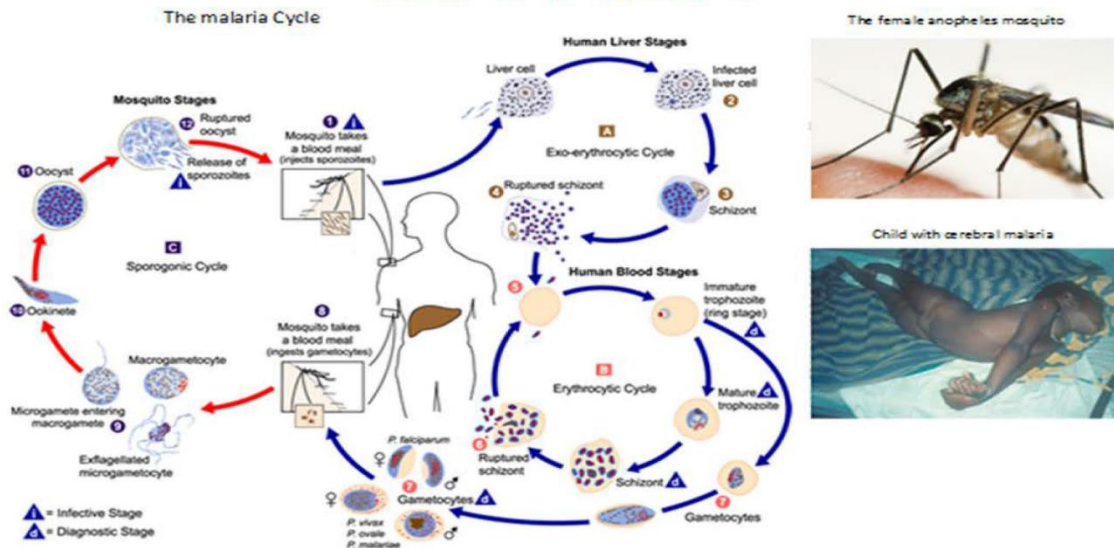


# MALARIA



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.