Malaria Treatment [1]

Novartis is at the forefront of a change in the treatment of malaria.

It all started in 1999, when we launched the first fixed-dose artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), a new class of malaria treatment. ACTs have since become a standard of care for millions of patients around the world. Our ACT is approved in more than 60 countries, and is currently the only ACT approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. Over the past three years, on average, a treatment was made available to approximately 200,000 malaria patients every day.

In 2009, we launched the first sweet-tasting, dispersible artemisinin-based combination therapy specifically designed for babies and children.

Novartis worked with Medicines for Malaria Venture, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to the development of affordable new antimalarials, to make this formulation available. It is now approved in more than 40 countries, and more than 350 million treatments have been delivered since launch.

In 2010, Novartis was awarded the Prix Galien USA Award in the category of the “Best Pharmaceutical Agent” for our antimalarial treatment.

We relentlessly work to discover new, innovative therapies. Today, Novartis leads two of the four most advanced malaria development programs worldwide. KAF156 is the first compound from a novel class of antimalarials known as imidazolopiperazines. Available non-clinical and clinical data suggest KAF156 has the potential to be effective against infections which are resistant to currently available antimalarial drugs. The second compound, KAE609, continues to be evaluated for the role that it could play in the battle against the disease.