

Alternative form of artemether-lumefantrine for infants

(Comment on Efficacy and safety of artemether-lumefantrine dispersible tablets compared with crushed commercial tablets in African infants and children with uncomplicated malaria: a randomised, single-blind, multicentre trial *Salim Abdulla et al Lancet 2008; Vol 372: 1819-1827*)

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In today's *Lancet*, Salim Abdulla and colleagues, in a non-inferiority randomised trial, compare the efficacy of artemether-lumefantrine dispersible tablets with the crushed commercial tablet in African infants and children with uncomplicated malaria.¹ They conclude that a six-dose regimen with the new dispersible tablet is as efficacious as the crushed tablet, and has a similar safety profile. The long follow-up (28 days) to ascertain parasitological cure rates, in view of the long half-life of lumefantrine, was particularly reassuring.² The dispersible tablet has a sweet cherry flavour and contains the same amount of artemether and lumefantrine as the crushed tablet. The dispersible tablet was developed to facilitate administration to infants and young children.