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Paroxysms are the most prominent clinical events experienced by patients infected with *P. vivax* malaria. These clinical episodes coincide with the rupture of schizont infected erythrocytes in the patients' circulation.

In the present study we closely observed the symptoms experienced during the period of a paroxysm in 9 acute *P. vivax* non-immune malaria patients. Each symptom was assigned a score depending on the degree of severity as perceived by the patient and scores were recorded at 15 min intervals. A score for a particular symptom was calculated for the entire paroxysm and finally the sum of the scores of all the symptoms was considered as the total clinical score of that patient (paroxysm score). The oral temperature was also recorded at similar intervals.

Findings indicated that the duration of a paroxysm varied from 1.30 to 9.30 h (mean=6.8 ± 2.5). Fever, chills, rigors and headache were experienced by all the patients studied. Other less prominent symptoms observed only by some patients were nausea, abdominal pain, myalgia, backache, numbness of feet, tearing and retro-orbital pain. Transient confusion was observed in one patient at the peak of fever.

Both the total paroxysm score and the peak temperature reached, correlated significantly with the parasitaemia of the patient ( $p < 0.05$ ). Of all the symptoms studied only the severity of headache had a significant correlation with the oral temperature at similar timing ( $p < 0.05$ ). We conclude that in addition to the constant features of a clinical paroxysm in *P. vivax* malaria, such as fever, chills, rigors and headache, other symptoms related to the gastro-intestinal, musculo-skeletal or nervous system also may be experienced by these patients. The degree of severity of symptoms associated with paroxysms, the peak temperature reached and the duration of fever reflect the level of parasitaemia in the patient.

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