

Therapeutic Uses of Quinine

It is mainly used in the treatment of malaria. Quinine is termed as general protoplasmic poison. It can depress a large number of enzymatic processes. Quinine has local anaesthetic activity. It can also depress the myocardium by reducing its conductivity, excitability. It is also used along with urethane as sclerosing agent which are used to remove varicose veins and are also used for closure of hernial ring and are also used for uncomplicated haemorrhoids.

Chloroquine is effective against malaria due to *P. vivax* and *P. falciparum*. These are also useful in the treatment of an acute attack of malaria. Quinine is effectively combined with sulphadiazine and tetracycline in the treatment of *P. falciperum* which is resistant to chloroquine. In therapeutic doses quinine contracts the pregnant uterus. This action has been used to precipitate labour. Quinine has analgesic and antipyretic properties. Intravenous injection of quinine has a relaxant effect on vascular smooth muscle causing a fall in blood pressure.)