

## Coartem Baby

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### Coartem Baby Latest News

In a major milestone, Swiss authorities have approved Coartem Baby, the first-ever malaria treatment specifically designed for babies and very young children.

### About Coartem Baby

- It is a **new drug** specifically designed for **infants weighing 2-5 kg** (newborns to under 6 months) which has formulation of **artemether and lumefantrine** — that work together to **fight the malaria parasite**.
- It is **developed by Novartis**, in collaboration with **Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)** and the governments of Britain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, **the World Bank**, and the Rockefeller Foundation.
- Previously, infants have used formulations meant for older children, increasing the risk of overdose.
- Eight African countries—Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda—participated in the assessment and clinical trials of Coartem Baby.
- **Advantages of Coartem Baby:** The formulation is designed to **dissolve easily, including in breast milk**, has a sweet cherry **flavour to ease administration**.

## Key Facts about Malaria

- It is a life-threatening febrile illness **caused by Plasmodium parasites**, transmitted through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**.
- The disease **is not contagious**, but can be spread through infected blood or contaminated needles.
- The most dangerous species are Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax.

## Symptoms and Risks

- Symptoms appear 10–15 days after infection and include fever, chills, and headache
- Severe symptoms can include seizures, difficulty breathing, jaundice, dark urine, and death if untreated.
- Partial immunity can develop in endemic regions, making diagnosis difficult in some patients.

**Source:** IE

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