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### DRUGS: DEVELOPMENT & CLINICAL TRIALS

## GLOBAL NEWS

### 1. India to see its anti-malarial drug Tafenoquine by 2018

India is likely to get its own breakthrough drug Tafenoquine for potential treatment and prevention of malaria by 2018. Tafenoquine, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline, is currently under phase 3 clinical trial program. It offers a one-day two-dose treatment regimen and would replace the existing 14-day treatment for plasmodium vivax malaria, which is prevalent in India.



Near 3-fold increase in

India, accounting for 70% of the malaria cases in the Southeast Asia region, has seen a vigorous increase in the number of projects combating its increasing prevalence. Furthermore, it is expected that at least 3 new medicines will be launched in the coming two to five years. Artefenomel and KAF 156 are two other anti-malarial drugs in evolved stages of clinical development, with positive outcome expectation by the researchers.

the anti-malarial drug pipeline has been reported since 2008 with a mere 17 projects in 2008 to 46 in 2016 so far. The higher amount of investment in anti-malaria programmes globally has led to the increased number of projects over the past decade. From \$130 million in investments sixteen years ago, expenditures have risen to \$2.7 billion in 2015. Drug R&D alone has shown an investment growth from \$4 million in 1999 to over \$750 million by the end of 2015. For global malarial control programme, this advancement in drug R&D has been a game changer, which is pushed by the use of increased international funding.

[Source: health.economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

- Gilead's FDC (sofosbuvir, velpatasvir and voxilaprevir) shows positive phase 3 results
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