

[Available Issues](#) | [Japanese](#)

Author:  [ADVANCED](#) | Volume  Page

Keyword:



[TOP](#) > [Available Issues](#) > [Table of Contents](#) > **Abstract**

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### **Mefloquine chemoprophylaxis against malaria in Japan: results of a study on adverse effects**

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**Abstract:** Although Mefloquine is commonly used as a prophylactic drug in malaria endemic areas, there are only limited reports about its adverse effects in non-endemic areas. We carried out a prospective observation study of 107 travelers who were prescribed mefloquine as chemoprophylaxis against malaria prior to their departure from Japan from November 2004 to October 2006. We carefully sought the appropriate adverse effects for each client according to the guidelines for Japanese overseas travelers. Of the 107, 71 men and 36 women of whom we were able to follow 65 travelers who completed their full chemoprophylactic procedure. Of the 65, 47 travelers completed their full chemoprophylaxis. Different adverse effects were reported in 19 travelers.

fatigue (n=9), dizziness (n=6), headache (n=3), nausea (n=3), drowsiness (n=2), anxiety (n=2), fever (n=1) and skin rash (n=1). Three were incapable of continuing chemoprophylaxis due to the adverse effects noted. Through our study, mefloquine chemoprophylaxis was seen in Japanese travelers. We believe that our detailed consultation and care reduced the incidence of severe adverse effects and maintained the high rate of chemoprophylaxis.

**Key words:** [malaria](#), [mefloquine](#), [chemoprophylaxis](#), [Japanese travelers](#)

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