

Diagnosis >> By the Doctor

The diagnosis of malaria rests on the demonstration of asexual forms of the parasite in peripheral blood smears stained with Giemsa's stain. Clinically, any patient suffering from fever with rigors in an endemic area should arouse a suspicion of malaria.

DIAGNOSIS BY THE DOCTOR

Although the diagnosis of malaria is by demonstration of the parasite in peripheral blood smears, fever cases without the following associated symptoms may be considered as malaria in endemic areas.

- Cough – Acute respiratory infections
- Cold with running nose
- Burning micturition
- Skin infections e.g. boils, abscess, infected wounds
- Painful swelling of joints
- Ear discharge

Clinical features of malaria

- Fever may be continuous or there may be intermittent paroxysms.
- Anaemia and splenomegaly may be present.
- Other clinical features described under Clinical Presentation aid clinical diagnosis

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