

Herbal anti-malaria drug may control Asthma

10 August 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

Herbal anti-malaria drug may control Asthma



According to researchers from the National University of Singapore (NUS), the anti-malarial herbal drug "artesunate" can herald better treatment outcomes than other asthma drugs available currently.

A team has studied the therapeutic effects of artesunate against oxidative stress and oxidative lung damage which are major inflammatory events that contribute to the severity of asthma attacks.

They found that artesunate could better prevent oxidative lung damage, a major molecular inflammatory event in asthmatic lungs than clinically-used corticosteroid called dexamethasone.

"Artesunate can be used to better control asthma with improved outcomes and lesser adverse effects than currently available drugs," said Mr Fred Wong, associate professor, department of pharmacology, NUS.

The study, published in the *Journal Metabolomics* suggests that patients may eventually be able to adopt artesunate as a safer and more effective alternative to control their asthma.

The team led by Mr Eugene Ho Wanxing, a PhD graduate from the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at NUS, will further explore the therapeutic and pharmacological effects of artesunate for asthma, as well as for other medical conditions.