

# Less is more in malaria control

November 18 2010

---



A new malaria study by University of Queensland scientists challenges World Health Organisation guidelines for using DDT chemical spray to kill mosquitoes.

DDT is highly toxic, posing significant risks to human health, yet is still commonly used with insecticide-treated bednets to control [malaria](#).

The Stockholm Convention DDT Expert Group met last week to lay out new recommendations for gradually phasing out DDT.

Dr. Laith Yakob and Dr Rebecca Dunning, from the UQ School of Biological Sciences, have been investigating the use of DDT in Kenya and at other sites across [Africa](#).

“During the DDT phase-out, DDT must be strictly reserved for households which do not already use insecticide-treated bednets,” Dr. Yakob said.

“When used in the same household as bednets, repellent DDT will reduce mosquitoes contacting the insecticides with which bednets are treated.”

Current strategy of combining DDT with bednets may actually detract from the community-wide benefits experienced with bednets alone.

“Treated bednets are highly effective at killing malaria-carrying [mosquitoes](#),” Dr. Yakob said.

“Spraying [DDT](#) in the same residence will divert the mosquito away from the treated bednets, onto unprotected homes.”

Provided by University of Queensland

Citation: Less is more in malaria control (2010, November 18) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-11-malaria.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.
---