

# Cross-species malaria immunity induced by chemically attenuated parasites

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Malaria, a mosquito-born infectious disease, kills over 600,000 people every year. Research has focused on the development of a vaccine to prevent the disease; however, many malaria vaccines targeting parasite antigens have failed because the antigen targets are highly variable.

Based on the observation that low-density infections can induce antibody-independent immunity to different malaria strains, Michael Good and colleagues at Griffith University in Australia created a vaccine using blood-stage malaria parasites that were attenuated with a chemical agent that keeps the parasite from multiplying.

In this issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, they demonstrate that mice inoculated with a single species of attenuated parasite display immunity to multiple malaria species for over 100 days. These data indicate that vaccination with chemically attenuated parasites provides [protective immunity](#) and suggest that such vaccines could be used to target human malaria species.

**More information:** Cross-species malaria immunity induced by chemically attenuated parasites, *J Clin Invest.* [doi:10.1172/JCI66634](https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI66634)

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