BBC Learning English
Media English 媒体英语
Drug-resistant malaria 抗药性疟疾

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科学家们新发现了一种引发疟疾的寄生虫菌株，这类菌株对现有的治疗疟疾最有效的药物青蒿素具有抗药性。以下是 BBC Rebecca Morelle 的报道：

Artemisinin is a **frontline** drug in the fight against malaria. It's used around the world, and can clear the infection in just a few days.

But reports of **resistance** began to **emerge** in western Cambodia in 2008, and this has now spread to other areas in South East Asia.

To investigate, scientists **sequenced the genomes** of more than 800 malaria-causing **parasites** collected from all around the world.

They found that some of the **strains** present in Cambodia were significantly different to the rest, and these were able to **withstand** artemisinin treatment.

The researchers don't yet know how the parasites are beating the drugs.

But they say understanding their **genetic fingerprint** will help them to quickly **detect** and **track** these strains if they spread.

Questions

1. How long does it take artemisinin to cure a malaria infection?
2. In which places have artemisinin-resistant parasites been found?
3. True or false: Scientists understand how the parasites are beating artemisinin.
4. True or false: Scientists say checking malaria sufferers' fingerprints can help them track the disease.

Vocabulary and definitions

frontline	一线的
resistance	抵制，免疫力
emerge	出现
sequenced the genomes	基因排列
parasites	寄生虫，寄生物
strains	种类
withstand	耐得住，抗得起
genetic fingerprint	基因指纹
detect	发现，查明
track	追踪研究

Answers to the questions:

1. How long does it take artemisinin to cure a malaria infection?
   Answer: A few days.
2. In which places have artemisinin-resistant parasites been found?
   Answer: In Cambodia and other parts of South East Asia.
3. True or false: Scientists understand how the parasites are beating artemisinin.
   Answer: False. The researchers don't yet know how the parasites are beating the drugs.
4. True or false: Scientists say checking malaria sufferers' fingerprints can help them track the disease.
   Answer: False. Scientists say understanding the parasites' genetic fingerprint will help them to quickly detect and track these strains if they spread.