FACT SHEET

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About Plasmodium
This is the malaria parasite and consists of a few species such as Plasmodium vivax, Plasmodium ovale, Plasmodium malariae and Plasmodium falciparum. Plasmodium vivax and Plasmodium falciparum are most prevalent in Asia. The parasite is a complex micro-organism and within each parasite, there are thousands of molecules.

About Erthrocytes
Scientific name for red blood cells; transports oxygen and carbon dioxide to and from tissues.

About ligand-receptor interactions
The malaria parasite contains proteins on their surface which connect with proteins of the red blood cells. The proteins on the parasite are called “ligands” while the proteins of the red blood cells are called “receptors”. Through these connections, the parasite is then able to attack the red blood cells.

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