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MESTRADO EM: Estudos Africanos

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TÍTULO DA TESE: Malaria. Which are the main factors that determinate, in the pharmaceutical industry, the total budget for the investigation of a vaccine?

Abstrat

Malaria causes the death of a child every minute, in Africa. In this continent we can find the worst and deadliest of this disease, caused by the parasite *P. falsiparum*.

There is still no vaccine against malaria, by *P. falsiparum*, so - Which are the main factors that determinate, in the pharmaceutical industry, the total budget for the investigation of a vaccine?

Beyond all the financial implications that the investigation of such a vaccine requires, the time factor, for all the years that it takes (between 15 and 20 years) and the insufficient knowledge of the parasite that causes the deadliest version of the malaria (*P. falsiparum*) those are factors to consider when deciding to move forward regarding a scientific research of the nature. But equally important, there is the need by a pharmaceutical company (after the high investment in I&D programme) to recover the investment performed. A vaccine against malaria will never be profitable because the "market" to which is destined, is considered to be small and most of all, with no financial situation that allows for large profits by pharmaceutical corporations. Such factors are not "attractive" for pharmaceuticals, which need to answer with profit to theirs shareholders.

Key Worth: Malaria; Vaccine; Pharmaceutical industry;