

# Curcumin cures malaria, prevents recurrence: Study

**Kounteya Sinha | TNN**

**New Delhi:** Curcumin, which gives turmeric (*haldi*) its trademark bright yellow colour, has been found to be highly effective against malaria, with a 100% cure rate in the recently completed animal trials.

A study, conducted by scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, found that curcumin when used in combination with the anti-malarial drug of choice—Artemisinins (ART)—is not only effective in killing the parasite, but is also able to prepare the immune system against the recurrence of the disease caused by leftover parasites. The study will be published in the next edition of the journal, 'Current Science'.

Buoyed by these findings, former director of IISc Dr Govindarajan Padmanabhan and his team are preparing to start human trials of an artemisinin-curcumin combination therapy in both simple malaria cases and in the treatment of the deadly cerebral malaria (CM) type that kills 20% of patients.

The phase-II human trials that will include 50 patients suffering from normal malaria and 100 CM patients will take place at Ispat Hospital in Rourkela, Oris-



**Curcumin, which gives turmeric its colour, has been found to have a 100% cure rate for malaria in animal trials by IISc scientists. Human trials will begin soon**

sa. IISc has joined hands with the National Institute of Malaria Research and Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, to conduct this study, and is awaiting clearance from the department of biotechnology and the Drug Controller General of India.

Dr Padmanabhan said, "Curcumin has many advantages. It not only kills the malaria parasite but also reduces inflammation in the brain caused during CM. It is cheap and no resistance against it is known since it is a dietary supplement. We will know within 72 hours of administering the combo drug whether it cures CM while in case of simple malaria, we will follow patients for 28 days to see if the disease recurs."