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## What are the common species of malaria parasites in the Philippines?

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There are 4 species of malaria parasites. These are: Plasmodium falciparum, Plasmodium vivax, Plasmodium malariae and Plasmodium ovale. Of these, Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax are the common species of malaria parasites in the Philippines where 70% of malaria cases are P. falciparum while 30% are P. vivax cases. There are also P. malariae cases and contributes to about < 1% of the total malaria cases. P. falciparum malaria, if not treated immediately, can lead to severe malaria, such as cerebral malaria. On the other hand, P. vivax malaria does not lead to cerebral malaria but it causes relapse if treatment was not completed.