

Combining methods of malaria control

In the October 2, 2009 issue of PLoS Computational Biology, a paper was published describing a model estimating the impact of both insecticide-treated bednets (ITN's) and new fungal biopesticides on the transmission rates and hence prevalence of malaria. These two interventions affect mosquitoes at different ages and stages in their lifecycle. The model demonstrates that these interventions combined can have strong effects on malaria transmission even in situations where neither

intervention would have much impact alone. In situations difficult for malaria control due to high transmission intensity and widespread insecticide resistance, this strategy may prove particularly beneficial, as the ITN intervention improves the performance of the fungal biopesticide intervention.

Reference: Hancock PA. Combining Fungal Biopesticides and Insecticide-Treated Bednets to Enhance Malaria Control. PLoS Comput Bio. 2009;5(10):e1000525.