



The Compromised, Pre-Diseased or Post-Diseased Terrain, Malaria and Germ Terrain Dualism



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Introduction

The Germ-Terrain duality theory of disease states that the aetiology of certain diseases/diseased states is better explained as a complex interplay between germs and the inherent anatomical/physiological integrity of the body cells [1]. It argues that the aetiology of certain diseases is not fully explained merely by the presence of germs (Germ Theory) or by a mere loss of cellular integrity (Terrain Theory) [2-6]. As a result, the prevention and treatment of such diseases should focus not just on fighting germs but on maintaining/restoring the anatomical/physiological cellular integrity

[7-11]. The Germ-Terrain duality theory is a harmonization of the current Germ Theory (popularized by Louis Pasteur) and the hitherto discarded Terrain Theory (popularized by Pierre Bechamp) [11-14].

If an unhealthy/pre-diseased person is infected with malaria, what happens? What is the effect of malaria in an individual whose anatomical/physiological terrain (integrity wise) has been compromised prior to (or after) infection? (Table 1).

Table 1: The above show terrain has a role to play in the aetiology of malaria.

Conditions that provide resistance to malaria	Conditions that provide no resistance to malaria, encourage malaria to thrive and/or are themselves adversely affected by malaria
Thalassemias [2]	Blood Group A [9]
Blood Group O [3-6]	Pregnancy
AIDS	Hypertension
Type 2 Diabetes (Disputed) [7,8]	Vitamin A deficiency
Pyruvate kinase deficiency	Excess Iron
Duffy antigen receptor negativity	Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) deficiency [11]
Gerbich antigen receptor negativity	Zinc deficiency [11]
Human leucocyte antigen polymorphisms	Folate deficiency [11]
Cancer [10]	
Glycophorin A and B protein mutations	

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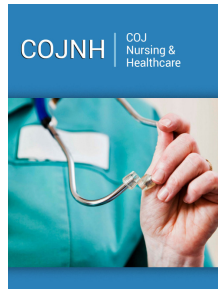
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