

MN Malaria Stories: Importance of antimalarial medication (short version)

TRANSCRIPT

When I look back at my experience of being hospitalized for malaria, things should have been different.

I was attending college in Wisconsin, and I had not been home to Nigeria in 6 years. A week after I returned to Wisconsin, I didn't feel right, so I went to the clinic.

I said "I have malaria," but the clinic said there is no malaria in the U.S.

I eventually developed a fever and chills, and I felt so sick and miserable that I was admitted to the hospital. When they finally ran a blood test for malaria, it was positive. I had known what my body was telling me all along.

This was a frustrating and traumatic experience for me. Looking back, I wish I had known how important it was to protect myself from malaria, and that this could have been prevented with antimalarial medication.

If you are visiting friends and family back home, please go see a doctor before you travel to a country with malaria. Tell them how long you will be gone so you have enough antimalarial medication for your entire trip.

I don't want anyone to have the experience I had. Take care of yourself on your travels.

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