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MOBILE APP USES LIGHT SENSOR TO DIAGNOSE MALARIA

 WORK & LIFESTYLE

Ugandan start-up Matibabu has developed a non-invasive method for diagnosing malaria using a mobile application and light sensor.

Taking only 60 seconds to run the test, the [Matibabu](#) mobile application is non-invasive and sends results directly to the patient's doctor. Once a user sets up an account, all of their malaria health history will be available in one place. The phone's GPS location will be recorded each time a test is taken, making it easier to track sources of infection. The app also provides general preventive information and a sound-based mosquito repellent that can be turned on or off as desired.

The test works by passing light through a patient's finger. If the sensor picks up a change in light intensity after the beam is passed through red blood cells, the results are positive. Patients can then text the results to their doctor for swift prescription pick-up. Early and accurate diagnosis is essential to the eventual eradication of the disease, and the creators of the app hope to begin saving some of the more than 800,000 sub-Saharan young children who die from the disease each year.

Mobile applications are helping make healthcare more accessible and affordable, as well as less reliant on blood tests. [Anemia](#) can now be measured using a smartphone's light and camera, and [chlamydia](#) can now be tested for in the comfort of a patient's own home using a small smartphone attachment. Where and how could home test data be saved and used for future access by healthcare professionals?

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