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Topic: Community health and nutrition programs

Title: Prevalence of Malaria, Knowledge and Practice of Malaria Preventive Strategies among Caregivers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area, Ogun State Nigeria

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Introduction: Malaria is still one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in under-five children in Nigeria. Among the strategies adopted to combat Malaria is the use of long lasting insecticide net (LLIN). The aim of this study is to assess the prevalence of malaria, knowledge and practice of caregivers on malaria preventive strategies.

Methods: Multistage sampling technique was used in selecting three communities in Abeokuta South Government Area (LGA) from which 400 respondents were selected. A structured interviewers' questionnaire was administered to the caregivers. Rapid diagnostic test kit was used for identification of Malaria parasite.

Results: About 49% of the respondents were male while 51% were female. More than half (62%) of the caregivers earn less than 30,000 Naira. About half of the caregivers had adequate knowledge on malaria transmission and 5% had poor knowledge. About 59% of the caregivers had poor malaria prevention practices and 7% had adequate practices. The prevalence of malaria in this study is 21.6%. About 49 % of the respondent slept under LLIN the night before the survey. This study shows that there is a significant relationship ($p=0.025$) between the education level of the caregivers and the knowledge on malaria transmission. This study indicate there is no significant relationship between the incidence of fever and malaria ($P= 0.126$).

Conclusion: Although more than half of the caregivers were aware of the symptoms and causes of malaria, most of them do not practice malaria preventive measures adequately.