Epidemiology

PO - (8563) - UNCOMMON HIGH AND SYMPTOMATIC PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM INFECTIONS IN GABONESE ADULT

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Background: Malaria remains a Public health issue particularly in sub-Saharan Africa with special features of seriousness in young children and pregnant women. Old children and adults reported to have acquired a semi-immune status and therefore with low parasitemia and less pronounced symptoms if any. We aim to explore parasitemia and symptoms in adolescents and adults with malaria compared to younger children in the area of Lambaëné.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study in Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL) during a month in 2018. Adults and children were screened for malaria at health facilities in Lambarene and Fougamou and their respective surrounding villages in the central region of Gabon. Malaria infection was determined either by rapid diagnostic test (RDT) or by thick blood smear (TBS). Body temperature, history of fever, age sex, Haemoglobin level and location were collected.

Result: From 09 January to 09 February 2018, a total number of 596 patients were screened and 280 (47%) showed to be an adult population. Plasmodium falciparum infection in adult was diagnosed based on the detection of P. falciparum in thick blood films and the prevalence among the adult was 56% (n=141). 34% of adult patients had a parasite count between 1015-116079 pf/µl. Fever was found in 31% of adult and several symptoms were reported by the same patient. Vomiting loss of appetite and fatigue were significantly present on adult population than in children.

Conclusion: This study shows a high rate of Plasmodium falciparum infection in adult associate to clinical symptom and high level of parasitemia. Adult seem to become at risk population suggesting that malaria program should taking in account the adult during the implementation of malaria prevention program.