



International Malaria Colloquium: Meeting Abstracts Applying Molecular Techniques to Interventions in Malaria Elimination in Nigeria

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Trends in paediatric malaria mortality over a 10-year period (2006-2015) at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Nigeria.

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Introduction

Malaria has remained a significant public health problem in spite of global efforts at strategies to reduce its related morbidity and mortality. In 2015, among under-fives, it contributed 5% of the estimated 5.9 million deaths globally 14% of the 750,000 deaths and in Nigeria. Most malaria deaths are preventable with prompt and effective management. This paper reviews the trends

in paediatric malaria mortality at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, a referral centre in the South-South, Nigeria during the period 2006 -2015.

Methods

Data on malaria from the Paediatric Departmental Database on admissions and deaths from January 2006 to December 2015 were retrieved for analysis. Socio-





demographic and clinical data were extracted and analysed using SPSS version 20. Simple proportions were compared using Chi squared tests and mean values using Student's t test. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

Results

Malaria was the primary diagnosis in 4, 038 (27.5%) of the total 14, 669 admissions and was responsible for 101(0.69%) deaths. The malaria deaths were aged 2 – 97 (mean 18) months with 27.7% infants and 87.1% under-fives. The proportion of malaria deaths declined from 20.8% (16 children) in 2006 to 10.3% (7 children) in 2015. The major contributors to the death were anaemic heart failure (38.6%), cerebral malaria (19.8%), and hypoglycaemia (8%). Among the dead children, 88 received artemisinin-based antimalarials, 19 intravenous quinine and 4 children did not receive any medication.

Conclusion:

The steady decline in the malaria deaths in this hospital agrees with the global findings and highlights the need for the consolidation of efforts in eradicating the scourge.

Key words: Malaria mortality children Nigeria

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