



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Implementation and challenges of Malaria Test, Treat, And Track strategy among children under five years in the Volta Region, Ghana

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

The WHO Global Malaria Programme's "test, treat, and track" (T3) strategy implemented in malaria-endemic areas, has been recognized but its completion rate remains low. This study sought to assess the current level of adherence to the T3 strategy for children under five in the Volta Region compared to 2017.

Method:

A cross-sectional study was conducted in 16 health facilities, using a semi-structured questionnaire to interview caregivers and clinicians. Clinicians' adherence, knowledge and attitude as well as the challenges confronting adherence to T3 strategy were assessed. Descriptive and inferential statistics were done and presented in tables and graphs.

Results:

The study recruited 892 children under five years, 680/892 (76.2%) were tested for malaria, 229/680 (33.7%) tested positive, and all received treatment with ACTs. Furthermore, 233/266 (87.6%) were asked to return the child for review. A total of 227/262 (86.6%) children completed T3. Also, the current study is 1.91 times more likely to complete T3 as compared with the previous study [RR=1.91 (95% CI: 2.73; 1.33), p<0.001]. Of the 32 clinicians surveyed 62.5% had adequate knowledge and 91% had positive attitudes toward T3 Strategy. The factors associated with clinicians' adherence were stock-outs of RDTs and training on the T3 strategy.

Conclusion:

Clinicians' adherence to the T3 strategy has improved in the Volta Region of Ghana compared to seven years ago. Therefore, the National Malaria Elimination Program should ensure a regular supply of RDTs and refresher training for all clinicians at all health facility levels.

Submission Date:

2024-09-23 22:29:12