



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Findings from a living systematic review on implementation challenges and lessons learnt regarding deployment of malaria vaccines

Category:

Scaling access, delivery and integration of health services and goods (including traditional medicine)

Authors:

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Objectives:

In Ghana, the RTS,S malaria vaccine introduction started in 2019, and in April 2023, the FDA approved the use of R21. We aim to provide evidence to policy makers regarding encountered challenges and lessons learnt in relation to malaria vaccine implementation.

Method:

We set up a "living systematic review". A search strategy was applied, using Medline, EMBASE, Epistemonikos, Grey Literature Report, OpenGrey and other sources. The searches are regularly updated. All identified documents on RTS,S and R21 vaccine implementation are screened for inclusion and data extracted on implementation issues.

Results:

By September 2024, 450 documents were screened for relevance; 35 were judged relevant and 9 of them included for data extraction. No documents on R21 were identified. Key findings: 1) RTS,S could annually avert 4.3 million cases of malaria and 22,000 malaria-related deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa. For every child given four vaccination shots, 1.744 cases of malarial infection are avoided. 2) Predictions of the cost-effectiveness of RTS,S in terms of disability-adjusted life years averted are similar to that of other new vaccines. 3) Lack of awareness, previous negative experiences with routine immunizations and challenges accessing health facilities contributed to caregivers initially delaying uptake of the vaccine. 4) Over time, concerns about vaccine side effects diminished and anticipated vaccination benefits motivated caregivers to vaccinate their children. 5) Perceived enablers for success were: (i) intensive advocacy (incl. rumor management); (ii) community engagement and social mobilization; and (iii) regular onsite supportive supervision.

Conclusion:

Our findings can guide countries on how to best implement RTS,S and R21.

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