

Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Toward Malaria Transmission and Prevention Among Pregnant Women Receiving Antenatal Care in Primary Health Care Centers in AMAC, Abuja, Nigeria

Onwuka Helen Ijeoma*, Dr Godwin Okorie

Department Of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Bingham University, Karu, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

*Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Malaria in pregnancy is a major public health concern in Nigeria, contributing significantly to maternal and child morbidity and mortality. Even with existing preventive measures, such as intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) and the use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), the prevalence of malaria among pregnant women remains high. Understanding the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of pregnant women toward malaria prevention is essential for improving uptake of effective interventions. The study assessed the knowledge, attitudes, and practices toward malaria transmission and prevention among pregnant women attending antenatal care in Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) within the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 366 pregnant women selected through multistage random sampling from 15 PHCs in AMAC. Data were collected using a structured, interviewer-administered questionnaire and analysed with SPSS version 25 and R. Descriptive and inferential statistics, including chi-square and multivariate regression, were used to assess associations between variables. Overall, 61.2% of respondents showed good knowledge of malaria transmission and prevention, while 59.6% showed positive attitudes toward preventive measures. Only 60.01% exhibited good preventive practices. Although awareness of malaria and ITN ownership was high (77.3%), consistent use remained suboptimal due to factors such as heat and net damage. Most respondents (59.6%) had received at least one dose of IPTp-SP, but only 6.6% completed the recommended three or more doses. Despite good awareness and generally positive attitudes, there are still gaps in consistent malaria prevention practices among pregnant women in AMAC. Strengthening antenatal health education, addressing misconceptions, and ensuring IPTp-SP is regularly available could significantly improve compliance with malaria prevention and outcomes among this vulnerable group.

