Author’s response to reviews

Title: Molecular Epidemiology of Drug-Resistant Malaria in Western Kenya Highlands

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Re: revision of MS#1112671334192333 - Molecular Epidemiology of Drug-Resistant Malaria in Western Kenya Highlands

In response to reviewer Dr. David Warhurst:

1. We have changed spelling of “sulphadoxine” to “sulfadoxine”.

2. We have discussed the study by Omar et al. (2001) in the Discussion section (para. 1, p. 11).

In response to reviewer Dr. Thomas Loescher:

1. We acknowledged the two limitations raised by the reviewer. We stated that “Our experiment design did not allow us to test clinical or parasitological efficacy in symptomatic infections after treatment; nor was the mutation prevalence/in vivo resistance before 1998 when the national policies of treating uncomplicated malaria were changed to SP examined.” (para. 2, p. 9). Our experiments were not designed to test clinical or parasitological efficacy after treatment.

2. We changed the wording in the section of Conclusion as “Together with the evidence that there was no significance difference in the frequencies of key resistance-conferring mutations in pfcrt, pfmdr1, pfdhps, and pfdhfr genes between symptomatic and asymptomatic malaria infections in western Kenya highland, high frequencies of these mutations in symptomatic and asymptomatic infections suggest that drug resistance of malaria parasites may be an important contributor to malaria-induced morbidity and mortality. However, the role of drug resistance as a driving force for malaria outbreaks in the highlands has not been established” (para. 2, p. 12). We believe this wording is more reasonable.

The two reviewers are acknowledged.

Thank you very much.

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