Author's response to reviews

Title: Determinants of Intermittent preventive treatment of Malaria during pregnancy [IPTp] in a rural town in Western Nigeria

Authors:

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

Outlined below is the response to the reviewer’s comments.

Reviewer's report
Title: Determinants of Intermittent preventive treatment of Malaria during pregnancy [IPTp] in a rural town in Western Nigeria
Version: 1 Date: 2 May 2012
Reviewer: Armando Humberto Seuc

Reviewer's report:
These should be “Major Compulsory Revisions”:
1. Non-consent. Women that did not consent might introduce a selection bias. What were the characteristics of the non-consented pregnant women? How many were they?------------------------ALL OF THE PREGNANT WOMEN APPROACHED CONSENTED.
2. It is not clear if the questionnaire asked women whether preventive malaria treatment with SP was available. “Hidden” reasons for unavailability of the preventive treatment with SP during pregnancy might explain not sufficient use of it. In summary, service availability should not be taken for granted.-------------------------YES IT WAS AVAILABLE AT THESE FACILITIES. THIS HAS BEEN ON GROUND SINCE 2005 AS INDICATED IN THE BACKGROUND LITERATURE REVIEW.
3. It is not clear how the crucial variable “knowledge of preventive malaria treatment with SP” was dichotomized into “good” and “not good”. In section “Research Instrument” the authors report that 4 questions covered knowledge of the preventive malaria treatment with SP; first they say that 100% correct answer (to these 4 questions) was considered as “good” knowledge, but a few paragraphs later they say that the mean score of (“true vs. false”) responses was taken to define “good” knowledge.------------------------CORRECTED [MEAN SCORE------DELETED]
4. The relationship between the outcome (“use of preventive malaria treatment with SP”) and potential predictor variables was assessed through odds ratios (OR). However, univariate ORs were computed which means they are not adjusted by other predictors (covariates), and therefore they are (potentially) confounded. A multivariate logistic regression should have been used to account for this problem, as it produces adjusted ORs. Therefore, the main conclusion of the study stating that “lack of knowledge about preventive treatment with SP is the main reason for not use of it” is questionable.------------------------MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS DONE

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

Reviewer's report
Title: Determinants of Intermittent preventive treatment of Malaria during pregnancy [IPTp] in a rural town in Western Nigeria
Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2012
Reviewer: Antoinette Tshefu

Reviewer's report:
Manuscript: Determinants of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria during pregnancy (IPTp) utilization in rural town in western Nigeria. This manuscript entitled "Determinants of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria during pregnancy (IPTp) utilization in rural town in western Nigeria" is important. The findings may have a significant impact on the maternal and child health services. The research question is pertinent. The methods are detailed.
Also, this may inform the policies with regards to the malaria prevention in developing countries. We acknowledge that the authors did an significant efforts to conduct the study and to develop this manuscript. However, we have some comments and questions to the authors:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The authors mentioned in the abstract section that the study is “an analytical cross sectional study”, in the methods section the study design is “descriptive cross sectional study”. For consistency purpose the authors should specify one design-----------------------------------------CORRECTED
2. In the methods section, sampling technique line number 7: “A total of 47 women was calculated”, what the authors mean by this sentence?-----------------------------THIS IS THE CALCULATION FROM THE SAMPLE SIZE FORMULA DESCRIBED
3. We recommend additional work on editing: methods section, study design the last sentence ends without full point; some sentences end by coma (eg.third sentence in the Methods section, research instrument). Please check all the section related to the research instrument we can find full stop next to question mark or coma next to question mark...----------------------DONE
4. What were the limitations for this study? We think the authors should raise the limitations, the study was conducted at the health facilities, and this may lead to selection bias as the situation of pregnant women who do not attend the health facility is not known. In addition, the fact that the authors didn’t conduct the multivariate analysis could be among the limitations as well.--------------------------
5. Conclusion: the last two sentences seemed too affirmative. They should for example “This study highlights the importance of community...”. The authors didn’t conduct the study assessing the impact of the community health education on the uptake of the IPTp. Since the multivariate analysis was not conducted to control others confounding factors, it will be risky to make such affirming sentences. Are the authors speculating or confirming? Given the findings of this study, the authors should speculate and not confirm. Anyway, the data presented in this manuscript couldn’t show with sufficient power the impact of the health education on the health services, especially the uptake of the IPTp.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests: 'I declare that I have no competing interests'

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Dr Amoran