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

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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?

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.

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.

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.

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