LAY MANAGEMENT OF MALARIA IN BARINGO COUNTY

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Background
Malaria is endemic in Baringo County. It causes morbidity, mortality and losses in human productivity despite availability of reliable control measures.

Objective
To assess how people’s perceptions influence their adaptive responses to malaria.

Methodology
In an ongoing cross-sectional study on community adaptation to malaria and Rift Valley fever in Baringo County, Kenya, data on lay management of malaria were collected through 16 focus group discussions (8 men only and 8 women only) and 10 key informant interviews (5 men and 5 women) among the Tugen and Ilchamus communities.

Preliminary Findings

Perceived febrile illness (F), perceived causes (P) and underlying beliefs (B)

F= “Malaria”

B1, Conventional medicines will treat the illness

Paracetamol

Remnant malaria medication

Emetic plant materials

Purgative plant materials

B2, The digestive tract has to be cleaned for healing to occur

12-72 hours

Observation period before next action

1st intent treatment

2nd intent treatment

N o l i m p r o v e m e n t

Conventional medicine from health facilities

CONCLUSIONS

• Lay beliefs of communities in Baringo influence their treatment seeking behaviour.
• Communities in Baringo utilize both traditional and conventional medicines in treating malaria.

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