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**PREVALENCE OF MALARIA AMONG CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS ATTENDING NYAMIRA DISTRICT HOSPITAL LABORATORY BETWEEN OCTOBER, 2009 TO APRIL 2010.**

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## ABSTRACT

Malaria is a fatal disease caused by Protozoa of genus *Plasmodium*. There are four species of *Plasmodium* which cause Malaria

*Plasmodium malariae*

*Plasmodium ovale*

*Plasmodium vivax*

*Plasmodium falciparum* the most virulent and cause of death in children under five years and pregnant mothers [MOH, 2006]

More than 300-500 million individuals throughout the world are infected with Malaria, and 1.5-2.7 million people a year, most of whom are children, are being killed by the disease. High Malaria transmission occurs mostly in Africa, south of Sahara where *Plasmodium falciparum* predominates cause an estimated 90% of death attributed to occur worldwide (Aroa and Aroa, 2006)

Malaria is transmitted when an infected female *Anopheles* mosquito bites a healthy person and introduces the parasite into his/her bloodstream. The infection is often accompanied by attacks or fever, headache, shivering, general malaise, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea and abdominal pain, convulsion, anaemia, coma and death. (Nordberg, 2003)

Malaria treatment is based on the national guideline as given by every respective country and government ministry. Chemoprophylaxis can prevent travelers to endemic areas from contracting the disease ([www.ajantapharm.com](http://www.ajantapharm.com))

### **Malaria is controlled by:**

Treatment of all infected people

Protecting man from being bitten by infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes

By destroying all mosquito breeding areas.

By destroying and killing adult mosquitoes through insecticide spraying