PREVALENCE OF MALARIA AMONG OUTPATIENTS ATTENDING KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence and current management of malaria at KNH between July and December 2009. The study was aimed at finding the presently the effective drugs used in malaria management, to asses the patient's education level on drugs used to identify the various types of antimalarials that are so far developed resistance, to identify the preventive measures employed by patients and the Government and finally to assess the cost effectiveness of this drugs.

The data was extracted from existing out patient disease index record book and register by the of check list and tally sheets. A retrospective study was applied and the research used the entire population (all ages) as the subject of the study.

The collected data was then analyzed and presented in table and pie chart. A hypothesis was formulated which was that the drugs of use were artemesinin combination. Findings showed that more patients were aware of current drugs used in malaria management. The mostly used antimalarials were amodiaquine and fancida while chloroquine, ausumax and autequine showed resistance. Palothen, paludrine, E-mal, and half pan usage was minimal due to their expensiveness.

The preventive measures employed were chemoprophylaxis, use of insecticides, treated nets, sprays and clean environment awareness.

Recommendations were that the study on management of malaria be carried out further. It's my sincere hope that the relevant authority will use this study results, especially to

put in place mechanisms that will enhance the current state of knowledge among patients, health personnel and citizen on malaria. This will enable them to fight the scourage more effectively and efficiently.