



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	MS: 2012 IJTDH 2738
Title of the Manuscript:	PREVALENCE OF MALARIA PARASITE INFECTION AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINICS IN PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 9 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	The authors did not indicate in the methodology the period of antenatal clinic during which blood samples were collected. Presume it was first antenatal clinic visit? Results 3.2: Table 2: The authors observed a significant difference between malaria prevalence and trimester of pregnancy. From a glance, the malaria prevalence for first and second trimesters are similar but different when compared with third trimester. Authors should indicate which comparisons are significant. If possible analyse using a reference group. Results 3.3 Table 3; Authors have reported a decreasing trend in malaria prevalence with increase in age. P-value only indicates that the prevalence is different among age groups but which age group (s) is (are) significantly different. There is no difference between the first and second age groups. Authors can use a reference group. Discussion L108: Comparing your observed overall prevalence with previous reports in the early and mid 2000s in Ghana and Gabon is irrelevant because recent studies in these areas have reported a decline in malaria infection prevalence due to implementation of control measures. Secondly , it is appropriate to compare and discuss prevalence data	The period of blood sample collection is included in the corrected manuscript. Pregnant women in their first and second trimesters where compared as a group against those in their third trimester. Age groups 11-20 and 21-30 where compared as single group against age group 31-40. Necessary corrections have been effected.



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	obtained only by light microscopy only and not by other methods (ICTs and PCR) It would be exciting to know the reason for increase in malaria prevalence reported from Port Harcourt or why the low prevalence in the 1980s. Discussion: L113-115; Statement not clear. Malaria parasite prevalence reduced from what? Discussion L123: 64% of which gravidity group? Discussion L129-131; How is this statement related to or accounts for the gravity – dependent and differential prevalence malaria in pregnant women? Discussion L137-138: Distribution of malaria prevalence in the different age group is inconsistent with some reports from studies in sub-Saharan Africa. One would expect higher prevalence in the youngest age group. Provide an explanation for your observation Justify at least from literature how different malaria prevalence rates observed among these age Groups could be attributed to the varying levels of awareness on malaria preventive measures. Level of acquired immunity that increases with age may also be associated with protection from malaria infection.	Increase in malaria prevalence in Port Harcourt could be as a result of urbanization, blocked drainage, poor sewage disposal and presence of stagnant water bodies. Necessary corrections have been effected. Necessary correction has been effected. Necessary corrections have been effected. Necessary correction has been effected. Necessary correction has been effected.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Discussion L120-123: repetition of results	Necessary corrections have been effected.
	Discussion L133-135: repetition of results	Necessary corrections have been effected.
	Discussion L136: rephrase; This finding is similar to that reported by other research carried out in Nigeria.	Necessary corrections have been effected.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		