



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_6398
Title of the Manuscript:	Malaria in the Akwapim North Municipality, Ghana: A population-baseline Survey, 2012
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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



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PART 1: 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	1. Title: Short and does not describe the study. Not in line with the study objective. The year the study was conducted does not need to be included in the title. Suggested option: "Community knowledge and perceptions on malaria and it's prevention and control in the Akwapim Noth Municipality, Ghana" 2. Abstract: Well written though there are many redundant words and phrases which need to be removed. On the methods section the p-value ($p=.05$) is not properly stated. The authors are advised to seek the advice of a statistician. 3. Introduction: Long and not focused (authors are advised to cut it down to a maximum of 1.25 pgs). There is no clear background information to put the study into context. The problem statement, rationale and objective are not clearly stated. This section is also not well referenced. 4. Methods: The description of the study area needs to be supported by an appropriate map. The ratios shown in this section e.g. urban:rural population, males:females need to be more simplified. In the last sentence, the authors need to mention the specific health promotional activities. The study design is not properly stated hence need to be rephrased. Suggested option: "The study was a cross-sectional, community based questionnaire survey	Thank you and i do agree Corrections done Introduction shortened and made clearer The area map has been inserted Ratios simplified



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	utilising structured questionnaires administered to caregivers of children in the Akwapim North municipality". The formula used to calculate the sample size is not referenced. From the estimated sample size of 383, it is not clearly shown how the sample size of 479 and 616 were reached This section needs to be counterchecked by an experienced statistician. The sampling procedure is not clear. There is a need to define the census zones and describe their distribution in the study area. There is also a need to describe how multistage sampling was performed. The last sentence "within a household, one caregiver" is also not clear. For example, how many caregivers does one expect in a household and how can simple random sampling be used to select one caregiver out of these? In the data collection section, the findings from structured questionnaires have to be supported by findings from FGDs and IDIs. If this was not done then this should be stated as a weakness of the study. In the data processing and analysis section the authors need to state the software used to enter data. In the last sentence, the p-value is not properly stated. Possible option: "A p-value less than 0.05 was considered significant". 5. Results: This section is well written. However there are many abbreviations e.g. AKNM, JSS, SHS etc which need to be spelled out. The tables are of poor quality. Figure titles need not to be included in the figure. Generally this section needs to be seen by a statistician. 6. Discussion and conclusions: Long and not focussed. Needs to be cut down to a maximum of 1.5 pages. Unless very necessary and under special circumstances, it is not proper to use data/references of studies conducted outside the African region to discuss findings. The	Corrections made and sample size referenced The census zones are 30 in the district .it means the district has been divided into 30 enumeration zones (subdistricts with a heterogeneous population) Within a household, one caregiver was selected by simple random sampling through a box-draw method to participate in the survey Well noted and stated as a limitation Suggestion taken with thanks Graphs redone and acronyms explained
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	findings need to be discussed in the context of other studies conducted in the region/area where the study was conducted i.e. Africa South of Sahara.	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	There are many grammatical errors. The authors are advised to consult a scientist conversant with English language. Alternatively this can be dealt with by the journal editors.	Thanks and well noted
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	None	