

Editorial comment:-

I recommend publication.

However, I would ask the authors to state in their paper how they defined "severe malaria" versus uncomplicated malaria.

Also, this extract from the paper needs revision...

The mean serum level of C-reactive protein (mg/l) was 33.3 ± 16.88 significantly higher in children with severe than the 8.12 ± 9.09 obtained in the patients with uncomplicated malaria ($t = -15.57$; $p < 0.001$) - Table IV.

Author's feedback:-

The authors' thank the editorial board for the positive and prompt response.

We have stated as recommended, the definitions for "severe malaria" versus "uncomplicated malaria". These have been included (as highlighted) in the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the materials and methods section.

We have also revised the extract above as recommended. This revision has been highlighted in the fourth paragraph of the results section.

Type of Article: Original research paper.

Severe malaria was defined as the presence of life threatening features in a patient with peripheral malaria parasitaemia. These features include any of the following: Unarousable coma (cerebral malaria), severe anaemia (haemoglobin less than 5g/dl), acidosis (arterial pH less than 7.5 or plasma bicarbonate level less than 15 mmol/l), haemoglobinuria, acute renal failure (urinary output less than 1ml/kg/hour), hypotension/shock (systolic blood pressure less than 50mmHg in children aged one to five years), bleeding manifestations, respiratory distress, hypoglycaemia (plasma glucose less than 2.2mmol/l), jaundice,

hyperparasitaemia (greater than 250,000 parasites/ μ l), prostration and hyperpyrexia (axillary temperature greater than 39.5°C). Severe malaria is a major cause of hospital admissions, morbidity and deaths in children especially in the first five years of life.^{1,4,5}

Uncomplicated malaria was defined as malaria parasitaemia with no life threatening features. The characteristic symptom of uncomplicated malaria is fever. Most cases of malaria in children in the tropics belong to this group.^{1,4,5}

Extract as revised

The mean serum level of C-reactive protein was also significantly higher in children with severe than uncomplicated malaria ($t = -15.57$; $p < 0.001$) as shown in Table IV.