

International Journal of Tropical Diseases

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effects of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) of Malaria on the Birth Weight of Babies at Delivery in Dschang, West Region of Cameroon

Sabrina Lynda Kamga^{1*} , Innocent M Ali², Ghislain Romeo NGANGNANG¹, KEPTCHEU TD Leonard¹ and PAYNE V Khan¹

¹Department of Animal Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Dschang, Cameroon ²Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Sciences, University of Dschang, Cameroon



***Corresponding author:** Sabrina Lynda Kamga, Research Unit of Biology and Applied Ecology (RUBAE), Department of Animal Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Dschang, Cameroon, E-mail: sabrinalyndakamgasimo@gmail.com

Abstract

Background: Malaria is an important public health concern among pregnant women, approximately 32 million of them are at risk annually. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malaria represents annually more than 10.000 maternal deaths and 200.000 neonatal deaths too. Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) is used to reduce disease in pregnancy and their effects on the newborn. Today the WHO recommends that at least three doses of IPT should be taken by pregnant women during Antenatal Care Visit (ANC), this should be taken every month from the sixteenth week of pregnancy till parturition. This study aimed to assess the effect of IPT on the birth weight of the babies of mothers delivering in Dschang District Hospital.

Methodology: The study was conducted at the maternity unit of Dschang District Hospital located in Dschang (west region of Cameroon). In order to achieve this, a total of 380 participants, constituted essentially of women coming for delivery in the hospital were necessary. Data on the number of ANC, total dose of IPT taken have been taken from their health books. Moreover, information on socio demographic characteristics and obstetrics history of each participant were also recorded through an interview. Furthermore, blood was collected from the maternal side of placenta into EDTA tubes for assessment of maternal anemia. After all these, birth outcomes were then recorded.

Results: At the end of this study we found that 98.7% of participant had made at least one ANC while 65% of them had taken at least three doses of IPT. The uptakes of IPT vary according to the number of ANC (P < 0.05). Furthermore, it appeared that 13.9% of new born had low birth weight, although the prevalence of malaria during

pregnancy was (25.3%) and maternal anemia (24.5%) were important. majority of pregnant women were those aged between 24-34 years-old (59.2%) and having secondary level of education (58.8%).

Conclusion: Although the majority of women took more than 3 doses of IPT, after delivery the prevalence of anemia and Low birth weight was 24 and 13 percent. Otherwise, studies are needed to assess the real e □cacy of IPT in preventing malaria during pregnancy and the causes of maternal anemia.

Abbreviations

ANC: Antenatal Consultation; BW: Babies Weight; Df: Degree of Freedom; IMN: Impregnated Mosquito Net; IPT: Intermittent Preventive Treatment; MIP: Malaria in Pregnancy; SP: Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine; WHO: World Health Organization

Introduction

Malaria is a disease caused by an intra-erythrocyte protozoan of the genus *Plasmodium* which infects the red blood cells of human [1]. These pathogens are transmitted from one person to another through the bites of infected female anopheles mosquitoes or transplacentally by mother to fetus during pregnancy [2].

Malaria is an important public health concern among pregnant women, where approximately 32 million of them are at risk [3]. Five species of this protozoan parasite



Citation: Kamga SL, Ali IM, NGANGNANG GR, Leonard KTD, Khan PV (2023) Effects of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) of Malaria on the Birth Weight of Babies at Delivery in Dschang, West Region of Cameroon. Int J Trop Dis 6:070. doi.org/10.23937/2643-461X/1710070

Accepted: March 11, 2023; Published: March 13, 2023

Copyright: © 2023 Kamga SL, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

belonging to the genus *Plasmodium* are responsible for disease in humans. They are *Plasmodium ovale*, *P. vivax*, *P. malariae*, *P. knowlesi* and *P. falciparum* which are not only the most virulent and widespread, but also the one responsible for most cases of disease and death recorded [4].

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malaria represents more than 10.000 maternal deaths and over 200.000 of neonatal death annually [5]. Globally, it is estimated that more than 2.4 billion of humans, approximately half of the world population lives in areas where disease is found [6]. Sub-Saharan Africa records each year alone about 25 millions of infected pregnant women [7,8]. The prevalence of placental infection by *P. falciparum* among pregnant women is estimated between 5 to 52% in these tropical countries [9].

Among pregnant women living in stable malaria transmission areas, little (few) infection lead to symptomatic malaria. However, they are related to maternal morbidity such as anemia and adverse effects on the child as abortion, low birth weight and child mortality [10]. In low transmission areas of malaria where women relating to age of procreate have no acquired immunity in malaria, malaria in these pregnant women is related to anemia, an increase in the risk of having serious malaria and can lead to voluntary abortion, mortality and low birth weight of babies at delivery [11].

In high areas of transmission, malaria is more present in primiparous the prevalence and the parasitic density decrease with the number of pregnancies [12].

The diagnostic of this parasitosis passed throught microscopic examination, detection of specific nucleic acid by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and the detection of plasmodium antigens by Rapid Diagnostic Test using specific kits.

Today, intermittent Preventive treatment (IPT) with Sulfadoxine Pyrimethamine (SP) is highly indicated as treatment of simple malaria among pregnant women and children less than five-years-old in malarious areas in Africa [11]. That is why the WHO recommends at least three doses of IPT of malaria for each pregnant women regardless plasmodial infection [13], this because the treatment was found to be efficient against maternal anemia and low birth weight of newborn [11-14].

Material and Methods

Ethics statement

The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Cameroon Baptist convention Health Board No: IRB2019-38, whereas administrative authorization was obtained from the West Regional Delegation of Public Health. Written informed consent was obtained from all the study participants.

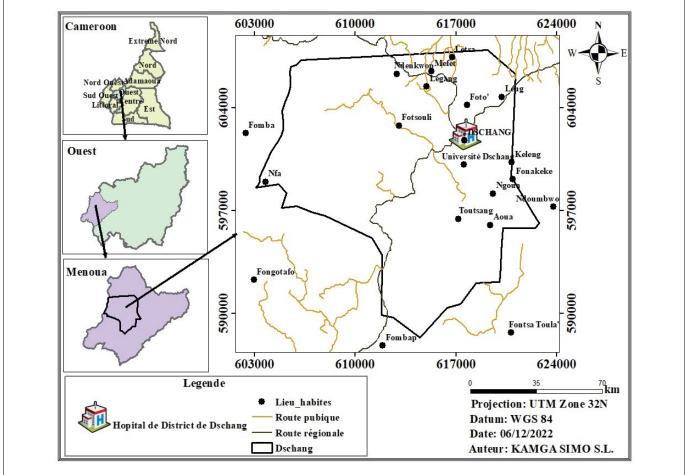


Figure 1: Study site.

Study site

The study was conducted at the maternity units in Dschang District Hospital (Figure 1) located in Dschang in West Region of Cameroon from January and December 2021. Dschang is the chief place of the Department of Menoua with five (5) Districts. He is located between 5°25'-5°30 of North latitude and 10°-10°5' East latitude located at 213 km North of Douala and 350 km North-West of Yaounde. This city is built on the Southern sides of the Bamboutos Mountains and opens in the southwest by the Menouet River flowing to the Mbo plain. At the East, it is closed by the Bani massif that culminates more than 1920 mm. the rainfall is 1900 mm per year for a temperature average of 20.2 °C. Dschang is between the altitude savannah and the mountain forest; the bottom funds are covered with very dense vegetation. The relief is very rough; the city is based on an old base forces volcanic training. The urban area occupied essentially a set of hills. The valleys are occupied by marigots and swampy grounds. The city is subject to the climate level altitude. It is the equatorial climate of Cameroon. Dschang District Hospital was selected for the study because of government-owned institutions that offer antenatal care, preventive, curative and delivery services at affordable costs and is highly accessible.

Study design and population

Consenting pregnant women were enrolled consecutively through a cross-sectional survey at delivery in the maternity. Enrolment by the time of delivery ensured uptake of adequate doses of IPTp-SP as stipulated by the World Health Organization (WHO). Mothers with evidence AIDS were not eligible for the study. An interview-guided administered questionnaire was used to obtain information relating to demographic data (age, residence) antenatal clinic data (gestational age, parity and number of antenatal care visits) and ITN usage. The use of IPTp and number of doses as well as new-born birth weights were documented and verified by checking ANC cards, patient's medical record book and health center maternal care register. Body temperature of the mother was measured using a digital thermometer to determine fever.

Samples collection and analysis

After delivery a placental blood sample was collected at the maternal side for haemoglobin (Hb) measurement in EDTA tubes. All samples were transported to the laboratory of the Dschang District Hospital. Haemoglobin concentration was determined using a haemoglobinometer (HemoCue) and strips. Maternal anemia was defined as a hemoglobin level of < 11 g/dL.

Data analysis

Data were recorded on the survey sheet and

laboratory note book, then uploaded into Microsoft Excel 2010 Software and analyzed using R Software Version 4.1.4. The significance of differences in proportions were explored using the Pearson's Chi square test, whereas the differences in group means were assessed using Student t test, analysis of variance (ANOVA). Association analysis of number of SP doses, PM infection and LBW was undertaken by logistic regression. A P value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Characteristics of study population

A total of 380 pregnant women were enrolled at delivery among whom those aged between 24-34 yearsold (Table 1) were the most represented (59.2%) while aged more than 34 years were the least (11.8%).

 Table 1: Characteristics of study population.

Characteristics	Number	Percentages %
Age groups (years)		
14-23	110	28.9
24-34	225	59.2
> 34	45	11.8
Level of education		
Primary	7	1.84
Secondary	216	56.8
Tertiary	157	41.3
Bed net use		
Yes	174	45.8
No	206	54.2
Duration (months)		
> 5	85	47
≥ 5	96	53
Number of (ANC)		
0	4	1.05
1	4	1.05
2	17	4.47
3	76	20
Gravidity		
	144	37.89
2	69	18.15
3	72	18.94
> 3	128	33.68
Parity		
0	123	32.36
1	82	21.57
2	75	19.73
3	41	0.78
> 3	59	15.52

Gest age (weeks)		
≥ 37	364	95.8
< 37	16	4.21
MIP		
Yes	96	25.3
No	283	74.5
Maternal anemia		
Anemia	93	24,5
No anemia	285	75
Severe anemia	2	0.526
Intake of IPT		
≤ 1	58	15.25
2	73	19.21
≥ 3	247	64.99
BW at delivery (g)		
≥ 2500	327	86.1
< 2500	53	13.9

Moreover, pregnant women having the secondary level of education (56.3%) were the most encountered while those who had primary level of education (1.84%) were the least encountered. It also appeared that 54.2% of participants did not sleep under mosquito bed net while the duration of the majority using it was equal or greater than five months (53%). Furthermore, we observed that 37.9% of women were primigravide while 32.4% did not have children at home. The gestational age was normal for the majority of participants (95.8%).

Out of these pregnant women, the prevalence of Malaria in Pregnancy (MIP) was 25.3% with 24.5% of them presenting anemia, although severe anemia was recorded only in 0.53% of women. We also noted that 93.2% of pregnant women did at least three antenatal consultations (ANCs), while 4.47% of them did two and 1.05% did one. However, four pregnant women did not go for ANCs at all.

Among children born during this study, results

Table 2: Association of characteristics of study population and IPT.

IPT dose	≥ 3	< 3			
			Khi square	df	P value
Age groups					
15-23	37 (27.61%)	73 (29.67%)			
24-34	75 (55.97%)	150 (60.97%)			
> 34	22 (16.41%)	23 (9.34%)	4.1544	2	0.1253
Level of education					
Primary	4 (2.98%)	3 (1.21%)			
Secondary	71 (52.98%)	145 (58.94%)			
Tertiary	59 (44.02%)	98 (39.83%)			0.2777
Bed net use					
yes	63 (47.01%)	111 (45.12%)			
no	71 (52.98%)	135 (54.87%)	0.0665	1	0.8056
Duration (month)					
> 5	93 (78.86%)	198 (78%)			
< 5	31 (23.13%)	48 (19.51%)	0.7085	2	0.7017
Number of ANC					
0	0	5 (2.03%)			
1	0	4 (1.62%)			
2	0	17 (6.91%)			
3	3 (2.23%)	73 (29.67%)			
> 4	131 (97.76%)	147 (59.75%)			0.00030
Parity					
0	38 (28.35%)	85 (34.55%)			
1	29 (21.64%)	53 (21.54%)			
2	26 (19.40%)	49 (19.91%)			
> 3	41 (30.59%)	59 (29.98%)	2.4822	3	0.4785
Gravidity					
1	72 (53.73%)	125 (50.85%)			

2	35 (26.11%)	79 (39.11%)			
> 3	27 (20.14%)	42 (17.07%)	1.6336	2	0.4418
Gestational age					
≥ 37	132 (98.50%)	232 (94.30%)			
< 37	2 (1.49%)	14 (5.69%)	2.8218	1	0.09299
MIP					
No	92 (68.65%)	173 (70.32%)			
Yes	42 (31.34%)	73 (29.67%)	0.0490	1	0.8248
Maternal anemia					
anemia	34 (25.35%)	59 (23.98%)			
No anemia	99 (73.88%)	186 (75.60%)			
Severe anemia	1 (0.74%)	1 (0.40%)			0.9097
BW at delivery (g)					
≥ 2500	117 (87.37%)	210 (85.36%)			
< 2500	17 (12.68%)	36 (14.63%)	0.1358	1	0.7124

Df: Degree of Freedom; g: Gram; MIP: Malaria in Pregnancy; BW: Babies Weight

revealed that a majority (86.1%) had a normal birth weight while only 13.9% had a low birth weight. Concerning the intake of IPT, we noted that 35.26% of pregnant women had taken more than three doses while only 4.4% did not take it at all.

Association of characteristics of study population and IPT

Some parameters studied could be associated to or not to the Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) intake. Table 2 below summarizes the results dealing with the relationship between IPT doses and all characteristics of study population. According to this table, among the women who slept on mosquito bed net, only 45.12% took more than three (3) doses of IPT while in women who did not slept under, 53.18% of them have taken over three (3) doses of IPT. Speaking of the number of Antenatal Care visit (ANC) the IPT is associated (P < 0.05) to this parameter because the increase of the number of ANC is the increase of the number of dose of IPT taken. In the same order of idea among pregnant women who have taken more than three (3) doses of IPT, the most represented were primigravide. The majority of women who had taken more than three doses of IPT had a normal gestational age but also was saving from maternal anemia and had children with normal birth weight.

Association between anemia and characteristics of the study population

Anaemia was defined as haemoglobin concentration less than 11 g/dL (< 11 g/dL). The Table 3 below shows the relationship between haemoglobin levels and characteristics of the study population. It appears from this Table 3 that haemoglobin levels are not related to characteristics of the study population except for malaria in pregnancy (P < 0.05). With regard to the use of the mosquito bed net the proportion of women who did not use (52.98%) in term of anemia is higher than those who use (47.01) this parameter was not dependent on anemia (P = 0.8056). With regard to the gravity the multigravide present anemia more than the primigravide. Women who took less than three doses of IPT present anemia in contrary to those who took more than three doses of IPT.

Association between birth weight of babies and characteristics of the study population

Low birth weight (LBW) is defined as the weight of baby less than 2500g. It could be associated or not to characteristics of the study population. According to Table 4 below, low birth weight is associated with gestational age and duration of use of mosquito bed net (P > 0.05). concerning the use of mosquito bed net, the majority of women who had children with low birth weight are those who did not use mosquito bed net (52.83%) contrary to those who use it (47.16%). Multigravida had a high number of children with low birth weight (50.94%) who is higher than those of primigravide (37.73%). Women who took less than three doses of IPT are those who had a high number of children with low birth weight (67.92%) contrary to the proportion of those who took more than three doses of IPT (67.92%).

Discussion

We carried out a survey in order to assess the effect of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) on the birth weight of newborns. Out of the 380 pregnant women participating in the survey, it appeared that 64.99 % of participants received at least three doses of Intermittent Preventive treatment (IPT). These results

Haemoglobin level	Anemia	No anaemia	Sev anaemia	
				P value
Age groups				
15-23	30 (32.25%)	79 (27.71%)	1 (50%)	
24-34	52 (55.91%)	172 (60.35%)	1 (50%)	
> 34	11 (11.82%)	34 (11.92%)	0	0.7663
Level of education				
Primary	2 (2.15%)	4 (1.40%)	1 (50%)	
Secondary	56 (60.21%)	159 (55.78%)	1 (50%)	
Tertiary	35 (37.63%)	122 (42.80%)	0	0.05339
Bed net use				
Yes	63 (47.01%)	111 (45.12%)	62 (21.75%)	
No	71 (52.98%)	135 (54.87%)	62 (21.75%)	0.8056
Duration (month)				
> 5	21 (22.58%)	73 (25.61%)	1 (50%)	
< 5	72 (77.42%)	212 (74.39%)	1 (50%)	0.4328
Number of ANC				
0	1 (1.07%)	4 (1.40%)	62 (21.75%)	
1	2 (2.15%)	2 (0.70%)	62 (21.75%)	
2	3 (3.22%)	14 (4.91%)	62 (21.75%)	
3	18 (19.35%)	58 (20.35%)	62 (21.75%)	
> 4	69 (74.19%)	207 (72.62%)	62 (21.75%)	0.8508
Parity				
0	30 (32.25%)	93 (32.63%)	0	
1	19 (20.43%)	62 (21.75%)	0	
2	19 (20.43%)	56 (19.64%)	0	
> 3	25 (26.88%)	74 (25.96%)	2 (50%)	0.8508
Gravidity				
1	27 (29.3%)	87 (30.52%)	0	
2	14 (15.05%)	55 (19.29%)	0	
> 3	52 (55.93%)	143 (50.17%)	2 (100%)	0.6895
Gestational age				
≥ 37	85 (91.39%)	277 (97.19%)	2 (100%)	
< 37	8 (8.60%)	8 (2.80%)	0	0.07463
MIP				
No	51 (54.83%)	155 (54.38%)	0	
Yes	42 (45.16%)	130 (45.61%)	2 (100%)	0.0001
IPT use				
≥3	34 (36.55%)	99 (34.73%)	1 (50%)	
< 3	59 (63.44%)	186 (65.26%)	1 (50%)	0.9097
Babies weight (g)		. ,	. ,	
≥ 2500	80 (86.02%)	246 (86.31%)	1 (50%)	
< 2500	13 (13.97%)	39 (13.68%)	1 (50%)	0.3488

Sev: severe; Df: degree of freedom; g: gram; MIP: malaria in pregnancy; BW: Babies Weigh

Table 4: Association between birth weight of babies and the characteristics of the study population.

Weight of Babies at delivery (g)	≥ 2500	< 2500			
			Khi square	df	P value
Age groups					
15-23	91 (27.82%)	19 (35.84%)			
24-34	193 (59.02%)	32 (60.37%)			
> 34	43 (13.14%)	2 (3.77%)	4.4135	2	0.1101
Level of education					
Primary	6 (1.83%)	1 (1.88%)			
Secondary	190 (58.10%)	26 (49.05%)			
Tertiary	131 (40.06%)	26 (49.05%)			0.3782
Bed net use					
Yes	149 (45.56%)	25 (47.16%)			
No	178 (54.43%)	28 (52.83%)	0.0047	1	0.9451
Duration (month)					
> 5	253 (77.37%)	48 (90.56%)			
< 5	74 (22.62%)	5 (9.43%)	7.8378	2	0.0198
Number of ANC	· ·				
0	4 (1.22%)	1 (1.88%)			
1	3 (0.91%)	1 (1.88%)			
2	15 (4.55%)	2 (3.77%)			
3	65 (19.87%)	11 (20.75%)			
> 4	240 (73.39%)	38 (71.69%)			0.755
Parity					
0	102 (31.19%)	21 (39.62%)			
1	73 (22.32%)	9 (16.98%)			
2	64 (19.57%)	11 (20.75%)			
> 3	88 (26.91%)	12 (22.64%)	1.953	3	0.5822
Gravidity					
1	94 (28.74%)	20 (37.73%)			
2	63 (19.26%)	6 (11.32%)			
> 3	170 (51.98%)	27 (50.94%)	2.8238	2	0.2437
Gest age (WKs)					
≥ 37	317 (96.94%)	47 (88.67%)			
< 37	10 (3.05%)	6 (11.32%)			0.0146
MIP					
No	228 (69.7%)	37 (69.81%)			
Yes	99 (30.27%)	16 (30.18%)	4.5137	1	1
Maternal anemia					
Anemia	80 (24.46%)	13 (24.52%)			
No anemia	246 (75.22%)	39 (73.58%)			
Severe anemia	1 (0.30%)	1 (1.88%)			0.3488
Doses of IPT					
≥ 3	117 (35.77%)	17 (32.0%)			
< 3	210 (64.22%)	36 (67.92%)	0.1358	1	0.724

Df: Degree of Freedom; g: Gram; MIP: Malaria in Pregnancy; Gest: Gestational

are higher than the 17.1%; 35.4%; 46.6% and 47.0% obtained by Feng G, et al. [15] in Malawi; Biaou COA, et al. [16] in Benin; Arnaldo P, et al. [17] in Chókwè District, Southern Mozambique and by Agyeman YN, et al. [18] in a study made in the Mount Cameroon and Kamissoko M [19] in Chókwè area respectively. This could by du to the fact that more the time passed more women are informed about the importance of IPT. These results show adherence and respect of recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the number of doses of IPT to be taken during pregnancy.

After delivery, anemia was found in 24.5% of women. This could be due to the fact that anemia is not always linked to plasmodial infection but can be due to other parasitosis such as helminthiasis.

The weight of the newborn was taken after delivery and, we noted that 13.9% of them had a low birth weight. This finding was higher than the 12.1%, 28%, 9.7% and 9.6% reported in Bamako by Toure OA, et al. [20], in Ivory Coast by Braun V, et al. [21], in Uganda by Ahmed R, et al. [22]. The decrease in rate of babies with low birth weight showed that women coming for antenatal consultation in Dschang District Hospital respected instructions by their physicians. These results are lower than the 37.1% obtained by Ahmed R, et al. [22] in Indian and 38.4% obtained by Zara MO, et al. [23] in Niamey (Niger).

Malaria in pregnancy was assessed and the prevalence was 25.3%, it was lower than the 65.6% obtained by Iwuchukwu IC, et al. [24] in Owerri, IMO State, Nigeria 29.5%, by Kamissoko M [19] in Bamako, but higher than the 7.9% and 19% reported in Ghana by Anto F, et al. [25] respectively. The high prevalence of malaria in pregnancy in Dschang could be due to the fact that since 2020, the campaign and distribution of Impregnated Mosquito Net (IMNs) had stopped. Furthermore, it is likely that the drug used for the IPT was not effective.

In this study primigravids accounted for 37.89% of the study population. These results are lower than 49.6% obtained by Manirakiza A, et al. [26] in Malawi, but are higher than 28.7% [19] in Bamako District Health 29.6% and 24% obtained by Toure OA, et al. [20] and Arnaldo P, et al. [17] in Ivory Coast and 26% by Manirakiza A, et al. [26] in Ghana. Eighty two point fifty seven percent (21.57%) of women were primiparous. These results are lower than those obtained by Manirakiza A, et al. [26] in Ghana and Biaou COA, et al. [16] who had obtained 33.1% and 38.2% of primiparous women respectively.

Concerning attendance at ANC, 93.2% of women made at least one ANCs. These results are similar to 93.3% and 95% obtained by Diengou NH, et al. [27] in Bangui (Central Africa Republic) and Kamissoko M [19] in Bamako (Mali). However, these results are higher than the 72.8%, 75.3%, and 72.68% obtained by Aminata F,

et al. [8] in Bamako (Mali); Toure OA, et al. [20] in Ivory Coast and Biaou COA, et al. [16] in rural area (southern Benin). This would be due to the fact that Dschang is a rural area with a high level of education. Here women are sufficiently informed about the importance of ANC.

Less than half (45.8%) of these women did not sleep under mosquito nets. These results are less than the 81%, 77.3%, 97%, 85% obtained by Kamissoko M [19] in a study made in a rural area in Bamako (Mali); by Anto F, et al. [25] in Ghana and Anchang-Kimbi JK, et al. [28] in Bamenda Health District (Cameroon). This difference can be due to the low distribution of mosquito nets to pregnant women during Antenatal Consultation and the absence of mosquito net distribution campaigns. These results are higher than the 35.5% obtained by Dosoo DK, et al. [29] 2021 in Ghana.

The most represented group was those aged between 24-34 years. Results were comparable to those of Feng G, et al. [15] in Tanzania where they found that the most represented group were aged between 20-34 years and those of Mutanyi JA, et al. [30] in Sabatia (Kenya) where they found that the most represented were aged between 24-34 years. This observation suggest that, it is at this age that women acquire maturity and consequently could be responsible and even knowing what they done. However, the finding was different from earlier reports of Toure OA, et al. [20] in Ivory Coast where the most represented women were aged more than 30 years and those of Igboeli NU, et al. [31] in Nigeria (women aged between 18-34 years). The difference observed between all these studies could be due to how the grouping of participant according to their age was done by the author.

The majority of women (56.8%) participating in this study had a secondary level of education. The finding corroborates the 57.9% obtained in Bangui (CAR) Diengou NH, et al. [27] and those of Toure OA, et al. and Mutanyi JA, et al. [20,30] in Kenya. However, it was not in accordance with those of Feng G, et al. [15] in Tanzania and Anto F, et al. [25] in Ghana who rather found women with primary level of education and those not educated at all respectively. The high percentage of pregnant women in this study could be explained by the fact that Menoua Division generally has many government and private high school, higher institutions including a University and Training Colleges.

Conclusion

At the end of this study whose main objective was to assess the effect of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) on the birth weight of babies at delivery, it revealed a significant improvement in the uptake of \geq 3 doses of IPT in Dschang with a coverage of 64.99%, Frequent visits to the ANC clinic, and type of health facility determined uptake of adequate doses of IPT. Although the majority of women took more than 3 doses of IPT, after delivery the prevalence of anemia and Low birth weight was 24 and 13 percent. Otherwise, studies are needed to assess the real efficacy of IPT in preventing malaria during pregnancy and the causes of maternal anemia.

Authors' Contributions

KSSL wrote the first draft of the paper. All authors contributed to interpretation of data and revision of the Manuscript. All authors read and approved the final Manuscript.

Acknowledgements

We thank all the women who agreed to participate in this study. We are also grateful to the Director of the Dschang District Hospital for giving us space and a laboratory in which to work to the accomplishment of this work. Special thanks to all the midwife of the Maternity of Dschang District Hospital and Juluis Visnel FOYET F for the data analyses with R.

Competing Interest

We don't have any potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

Availability of Data and Materials

The datasets generated during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Consent for Publication

Not applicable.

Funding

This study did not receive any funds but is a part of the parents of the student (personal funds).

References

- Yoah TA, Fru-Cho J, Kah E, Njukang E, Wirsiy SF, et al. (2018) Impact of adherence to a full course of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy on pregnancy outcome in Muyuka Health District: A cross-sectional study. Int Arch Public Health Community Med 2: 1-8.
- Dieng, Faye YB, Ndiaye D (2016) Programme National de Lutte contre le Paludisme (PNLP). Guide national de diagnostic biologique du paludisme 6.
- Esu E, Berens-Riha N, Pritsch M, Nwachuku N, Loescher T, et al. (2018) Intermittent screening and treatment with artemether-lumefantrine versus intermittent preventive treatment with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for malaria in pregnancy: A facility-based, open label, non-inferiority trial in Nigeria. Malar J 17: 251.
- 4. Jiang T, Chen J, Fu H, Wu K, Yao Y, et al. (2019) High prevalence of Pfdhfr-Pfdhps quadruple mutations associated with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine resistance in Plasmodium falciparum isolates from Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea. Malar J 18: 101.
- Schantz-Dunn J, Nour NM (2009) Malaria and pregnancy: A global health perspective. Rev Obstet Gynecol 2: 186-192.

- 6. Nostern F (2009) Paludisme et grossesse: un dilemme thérapeutique. Medecine/Sciences 25: 867-869.
- Dieye B (2005) Evaluation rapide de l'impact du paludisme chez la femme enceinte en zone de faible transmission paludique au Senegal (ville de Pikine-Guediawaye). Thèse présentée en vue de l'obtention d'un Doctorat en Médecine à la Faculté de Médecine, de Pharmacie et d'Odonto-Stomatologie de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar. 19-21.
- Aminata F, Mahamadou D, Sory ID, Seidina AD, Saibou D, et al. (2011) Prévalence du paludisme maternel, placentaire et du petit poids de naissance au cours du travail d'accouchement et en post-partum en milieu périurbain à Bamako (Mali). Santé 21: 3-7.
- Guyatt HL, Snow RW (2004) Impact of malaria during pregnancy on low birth weight in Sub-Saharan Africa. Clin Microbiol Rev 17: 760-769.
- Steketee RW, Wirima JJ, Campbell CC (1996) Developing effective strategies for malaria prevention programs for pregnant African women. Am J Trop Med Hyg 55: 95-100.
- 11. Gaillard T, Boxberger M, Madamet M, Pradines B (2018) Has doxycycline, in combination with anti-malarial drugs, a role to play in intermittent preventive treatment of Plasmodium falciparum malaria infection in pregnant women in Africa? Malar J 17: 469.
- Basuki S, Fitriah, Risamasu PM, Kasmijati, Ariami P, et al. (2018) Origins and spread of novel genetic variants of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine resistance in Plasmodium falciparum isolates in Indonesia. Malar J 17: 475.
- Aponte JJ, Schellenberg D, Egan A, Breckenridge A, Carneiro I, et al. (2009) Efficacy and safety of intermittent preventive treatment with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for malaria in African infants: A pooled analysis of six randomised, placebocontrolled trials. Lancet 374: 1533-1542.
- Mlugu EM, Minzi O, Asghar M, Färnert A, Kamuhabwa AAR, et al. (2020) Effectiveness of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria and adverse birth outcomes in pregnant women. Pathogens 9: 207.
- 15. Feng G, Simpson JA, Chaluluka E, Molyneux ME, Rogerson SJ (2010) Decreasing burden of malaria in pregnancy in malawian women and its relationship to use of intermittent preventive therapy or bed nets. PLoS One 5: e12012.
- 16. Biaou COA, Kpozehouen A, Glèlè-Ahanhanzo Y, Ayivi-Vinz G, Ouro-Koura A-M, et al. (2019) Traitement préventif intermittent à la sulfadoxine-pyriméthamine chez la femme enceinte et effet sur le poids de naissance du bébé: Application de la politique à 3 doses en zone urbaine au Sud Bénin en 2017. Pan Afr Med J 34: 155.
- Arnaldo P, Rovira-Vallbona E, Langa JS, Salvador C, Guetens P, et al. (2018) Uptake of Intermittent preventive treatment and pregnancy outcomes: Health facilities and community surveys in Chókwè district, Southern Mozambique. Malar J 17: 109.
- Agyeman YN, Newton SK, Annor RB, Owusu-Dabo E (2020) The effectiveness of the revised intermittent preventive treatment with sulphadoxine pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) in the prevention of malaria among pregnant women in Northern Ghana. J Tropical Med 2020: 2325304.
- 19. Kamissoko M (2015) La prévalence du paludisme sur grossesse dans le district de Bamako. Thèse de Doctorat en Médecine obtenue à la Faculté de Médecine et d'Odonto Stomatologie de l'Université des Sciences des Technologies de Bamako 75-87.

- 20. Toure OA, Kone PL, Coulibaly MAA, Ako BAA, EA Gbessi, et al. (2014) Coverage and efficacy of intermittent preventive treatment with sulphadoxine pyrimethamine against malaria in pregnancy in Côte d'Ivoire five years after its implementation. Parasites & Vectors 7: 495.
- Braun V, Rempis E, Schnack A, Decker S, Rubaihayo J, et al. (2015) Lack of effect of intermittent preventive treatment for malaria in pregnancy and intense drug resistance in western Uganda. Malar J 14: 372.
- 22. Ahmed R, Singh N, Kuile FO, Bharti PK, Singh PP, et al. (2014) Placental infections with histologically confirmed Plasmodium falciparum are associated with adverse birth outcomes in India: A cross-sectional study. Malar J 13: 232.
- Zara MO, Mahaman ML, Tahirou I, Kamayé M, Ibrahim A, et al. (2020) Infection palustre de la femme enceinte à Niamey au Niger. Pan Afr Med J 37: 365.
- Iwuchukwu IC, Vincent CN (2021) Studies on prevalence of malaria and its adverse fetal outcomes in Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Owerri, IMO State, Nigeria. Arch Community Med Public Health 7: 151-163.
- 25. Anto F, Agongo IH, Asoala V, Awini E, Oduro AR (2019) Intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy: Assessment of the Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine three-dose policy on birth outcomes in rural Northern Ghana. J Trop Med 2019: 6712685.
- 26. Manirakiza A, Serdouma E, Djalle D, Soula G, Laganier R, et al. (2011) Relatively low prevalence of peripheral

and placental plasmodium infection at delivery in Bangui, Central African Republic. J Trop Med 2011: 434816.

- 27. Diengou NH, Cumber SN, Nkfusai CN, Mbinyui MS, Viyoff VZ, et al. (2020) Factors associated with the uptake of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy in the Bamenda health districts, Cameroon. Pan Afr Med J 35: 42.
- 28. Anchang-Kimbi JK, Kalaji LN, Mbacham HF, Wepnje GB, Apinjoh TO, et al. (2020) Coverage and effectiveness of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) on adverse pregnancy outcomes in the Mount Cameroon area, South West Cameroon Malar J 19: 100.
- 29. Dosoo DK, Malm K, Oppong FB, Gyasi R, Oduro A, et al. (2021) Effectiveness of intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) in Ghana. BMJ Global Health 6: e005877.
- 30. Mutanyi JA, Onguru DO, Ogolla SO, Adipo LB (2021) Determinants of the uptake of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy with sulphadoxine pyrimethamine in Sabatia Sub County, Western. Infect Dis Poverty 10: 106.
- 31. Igboeli NU, Adibe MO, Ukwe CV, Aguwa NC (2018) Prevalence of low birth weight before and after policy change to IPTp-SP in two selected hospitals in Southern Nigeria: Eleven-year retrospective analyses. Biomed Res Int 2018: 4658106.

