

Risk factors for fatal outcome of malaria: A hospital based study in Pyin Oo Lwin District

Hla Soe Tint, Thein Tun, Saw Lwin, Ngwe San & Thida

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Abstract

A hospital-based prospective study was conducted to identify risk factors influencing malaria mortality in Pyin Oo Lwin district from 1st September, 2005 to 31st August, 2006. Face-to-face interview with patients or attendants using pre-tested, closed-ended questionnaire was conducted for all admitted malaria cases during study period. Among 822 cases, 47.4% were severe and complicated malaria cases and 56 patients expired at hospital. Patients aged above 13 years, being male with history of traveling to malaria endemic area, who denied past history of malaria attack, with duration of illness more than five days before hospitalization, who sought treatment from untrained practitioners as second healthcare provider, presented with fits, heavy parasitaemia, deep jaundice, and without clinical spleen enlargement were significant risk factors for malaria death ($p<0.05$). Prompt and adequate treatment at the community level, early referral and specific treatment at hospital should be ensured to reduce malaria mortality.