

Knowledge of high school students about malaria prevention and control in malaria endemic area of Pyin Oo Lwin Township (2017)

Phyu Phyu Win¹, Moe Kyaw Myint¹, Ei Ei Swe¹, Khine Khine Linn¹, Aung Kyaw Soe², Lain Lan Maung¹, Win Pa Pa Win³ & Khin Lin¹

¹Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch)

²Department of Public Health

³Department of Medical Services

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Abstract

A community-based cross sectional descriptive study was conducted with the high school students from selected three schools situated in malaria endemic rural area of Pyin Oo Lwin Township to assess knowledge about malaria prevention and control. A total of 183 students were selected by systematic random sampling method. Self-administered questionnaire was used in this study. Out of all students, female occupied 65.5% and most of the students (78.1%) were at the grade nine. Majority of students (93.4%) reported that the cause of malaria was due to mosquito bite. The students who correctly answered that biting time of mosquito for malaria was at night time were only 47.0%. Regarding signs and symptoms of malaria, almost all students (92.9%) knew that fever with chills were the major symptom of malaria. With regard to prevention of malaria, the students (95.1%) reported that using the bed net is a way of preventing malaria and 82.5% of the students answered that taking drug as preventing malaria. About (80.0%) of all students knew that spraying could prevent malaria infection. Most of the students (83.6%) answered that well drainage of water is important to reduce mosquito breeding. Relation to diagnosis and treatment of malaria, the proportion of students reported that malaria could be diagnosed by microscope and Rapid Diagnosis Testing were (62.8%) and (77.6%), respectively. Of all students, 76.0% perceived that malaria disease can be cured by early diagnosis and effective treatment provided by healthcare workers. The 79.2% of students revealed that malaria was curable disease. Moreover, they (92.9%) had perceived the severity of malaria as a deadly disease if there is no proper diagnosis and treatment. Although the 74.3% of students had known that malaria could not be treated effectively by taking drugs from drug shop, about half of all the students misunderstood that malaria can be cured without taking complete course of treatment. In conclusion, although the high school students had good knowledge on causes of malaria and prevention, promoting the knowledge providing about prompt diagnosis and effective treatment of malaria by healthcare worker should be encouraged more.