

Validation of malaria diagnosis and treatment provided by basic health staff

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Malaria is regarded as the top ranking health problem in Myanmar, while prompt diagnosis with effective treatment is vital for control of malaria. Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) (Paracheck test) detecting *Plasmodium falciparum* antigen has been widely used in public health centres since early 2002. The study was done in sub-centres of Pyin Oo Lwin township and Myit Kyi Nar township to assess the validation of malaria diagnosis and treatment rendered by basic health staff from June to September 2010. Microscopic examination of Giemsa stained thick film slides was done to all RDT tested patients seeking treatment in the sub-centres. The findings showed that among 252 patients tested, diagnosis for *P. falciparum* had sensitivity 52/65 (80%), specificity 177/187 (94.7%) while for *P. vivax* had sensitivity 30/35 (85.8%) and specificity 90.8 %. Overall sensitivity for all species of malaria had 82/100(82%) and specificity 122/152(80.2%). One impending severe falciparum malaria case was missed by basic health staff and patient was not referred in time. Thus, the study showed that although using RDT could detect malaria with overall sensitivity 82% and specificity 80.2% in the health centres, refresher training of basic health staff should be continued to follow the instructions of national treatment guidelines properly.