

ABSTRACT

Pregnant women are among the most vulnerable population to malaria infection, morbidity and mortality. Knowledge on the disease, complications and factors associated with utilization its preventive and control measures among this population in Kisumu city is not up to date. The disease incidences in the Kisumu City are still high, with about 27% pregnant women seen at the ANC testing positive for malaria. This cross-sectional study assessed knowledge on malaria, complication involved during pregnancy, sources of information about the disease and determined socio-economic and demographic factors associated with utilization of malaria preventive and control measures among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics at Kisumu County Referral Hospital (KCRH) in Kisumu city. Of the 349 pregnant women, 133 (38.2%) were aged 21-25 years, and 284 (81.38%) were married; 140 (40.11%) had secondary education, 90 (25.79%) employed recorded while 259 (25.56%) were not employed. Binary logistic regression, chi square and multivariate analysis ($p < 0.05$) were used to test association between knowledge level of malaria and factors associated with utilization of malaria interventions by the pregnant women in the city. There was significant association in age group 31-35 years with the use of malaria preventive and control measures ($p = 0.009$). Respondents with two children had increased odds of using malaria preventive and control measures (AOR=23.43, CI=1.3-422.4, $P = 0.033$). Significance was seen in employment, permanent and contract employment (COR=2.08, $p = 0.018$, $p = 0.028$ and (AOR=0.05 0-0.73, $p = 0.028$) respectively. The effect was also seen on casual workers and permanent engagements, $p = 0.049$ and $p = 0.028$, respectively. The study however, did not report statistical significance on level of education with utilization of malaria intervention methods. Knowledge on disease impact, transmission, signs and symptom were statistically significant ($p = 0.001$, 0.028 and 0.033) respectively. ITNs and IPTp were the two major known malaria intervention methods and were statistically significant (AOR=3.16, CI= 1.38-7.21, $P = 0.006$). Utilization of IPTp as malaria preventive method was significant (AOR=4.55, CI=2.44-8.5, $p < 0.001$), however, knowledge of IPTp coverage in the study area was (59%) which is below WHO recommendation. Health facilities was the main source of information about the disease and was significant ($p = 0.001$). Coartem was the major drug known and used for malaria treatment. Knowledge level on malaria by the respondents influenced utilization of disease prevention and control measures. There is need for combined efforts and proper engagement from the government, health workers and community volunteers to provide adequate information on disease and its control/prevention measures. This will increase more awareness, uptake of malaria interventions methods and reduce disease prevalence in the city. These findings may be useful to the County health officers, to improve knowledge, and utilization of malaria preventive and control measures at ANC platform in the city and county at large.