

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Microbiology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JAMB_84100
Title of the Manuscript:	Age-Dependent Prevalence of Malaria Parasitemia among Pregnant Women in Selected Tertiary Hospitals in Rivers State.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal’s peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of ‘**lack of Novelty**’, provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>This manuscript addresses an important aspect about malaria parasitemia among pregnant women which is age. I believe this study will contribute to the literature. I have some suggestions for the authors.</p> <p>In the Introduction part;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "The situation is worse in first pregnancies as they are yet to develop immunity against <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>, the major species that has been implicated. Uniquely, <i>P. falciparum</i> - infected red cells sequester in the placenta, causing maternal anaemia and intrauterine growth retardation or even fetal demise. " Citation needed2. "Over 30 million women become pregnant in Africa annually and are at great risk of malaria infection especially from <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>, and this can prove fatal for both mother and fetus." Citation needed. <p>Methods;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Ethical clearance was obtained from Ethics committee of Rivers state Ministry of Health. Subjects gave their written consent prior to recruitment into the study." May be a registration number can be provided for ethical committee approval.2. "Pregnant women who were attending the antenatal clinic were included. Pregnant women within the age bracket of 21-40years were also recruited. Pregnant women with signed consent form were also admitted into the study." I believe this should be structured into a sentence.3. "In the table below, pregnant women from BMSH and GHB of age group 21 – 25 (36.4%), (44.2%) were more infected by the malaria parasite followed by pregnant women of age group 26 – 30 (36.1%) from BMSH and 31 -35 (35.7%) from GHB." Sentences should be restructured for clarity and also the second most infected age group for GHB is 36-40 with 41.7% !! <p>Discussion;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "The prevalence of malaria was high in pregnant women of age group 21 – 25 from GHB because of their active involvement in farming, trading, and other socio-cultural activities that draw them outside their homes." I believe sentence should be restructured fitting for a discussion. The authors should discuss their findings, instead of providing conclusions.2. "For BMSH, the prevalence was lower in pregnant women of age 26 – 30 years and the reason could be that these women are mainly working-class with better socio-economic status resulting in better housing and eating habits, better awareness of the transmission of the parasite." I couldn't understand the connection between age group and socioeconomic status. Authors should clarify it.3. "In General Hospital, Bori women within the age of 21 - 25 were susceptible to malaria infection because of early marriages, daily activities include farming, staying	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In-text citation added and reflected on the citation page3. In-text citation added and reflected on the citation page1. Upon request by the editor, the ethical clearance will be sent.2. Alright. Correction effected3. Alright. Sentence will be reconstructed <p>The discussion and conclusion have been re-written to align with the reconstructed topic and study aim.</p>

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	<p>outdoors, and good breeding sites for the malaria vector. This is attributed to the fact that these women have parasites in them which is asymptomatic coupled with their immunity which is lowered due to the pregnancy.” Authors should clarify their reasoning by providing causality.</p> <p>Conclusion;</p> <p>“This study has shown that the prevalence of malaria parasitemia among pregnant women is relatively affected with age.”</p> <p>I would like to dwell on the concluding sentence. “prevalence of malaria parasitemia” is also present in the title of this manuscript which is quite misleading and open to misunderstanding. If there is “malaria parasitemia” in a sample, that means this person has malaria and thus we should talk about the prevalence of malaria in a population, instead of “prevalence of malaria parasitemia”. Another very important aspect is that the authors provide equations about malaria parasitemia and how it is calculated but they don’t provide any parasitemia results and contrary to the title, they don’t discuss or provide any data about the parasitic load compared by age groups.</p>	
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		

PART 2:

	Reviewer’s comment	Author’s comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<u><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></u>	