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Co-infection of malaria and typhoid fever among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics at Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Ozumba GI¹, Landan S², Adejoh VA³ and Danjuma K⁴

¹Federal Polytechnic, Nigeria

²Nasarawa State University, Nigeria

³Federal University Lafia, Nigeria

⁴University of Jos, Nigeria

A study co-infection of malaria and typhoid fever among pregnant women attending antenatal clinics at Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria between March and May, 2015. Blood samples were obtained from the pregnant women by venipuncture technique. 4ml of whole blood was collected and placed into EDTA bottle for malaria parasite and typhoid fever examination. A total of 200 pregnant women were examined. Field stained thick and thin blood films were used to detect malaria parasites in the samples while typhoid fever was diagnosed from each blood sample using widal test kit. Out of the 200 persons sampled, 16(8.0%) tested positive for malaria, 86(43.0%) tested positive for typhoid fever. Co-infection of malaria and typhoid fever was highest in the age group of 31-40 years, 8(11.11%) while ≤ 20 , 21-30 and 51-60 age groups recorded no co-infection. Statistically, there is a significant difference on malaria-typhoid co-infection. There is need for massive health education campaign to educate the pregnant women who visit Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital Lafia to correct the wrong perception they have about malaria and typhoid fever for effective treatment and control of the diseases.