

## Preliminary Study on Malarial Situation Among the Fever Patients Attending the District Hospital, Kilinochchi

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Malaria continues to be a major public health problem and socio-economic burden to Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, Kilinochchi District was identified as one of the highest malaria cases reported area in 1999. According to the Anti Malarial Campaign, there is a drastic reduction in the malarial cases after 2002. This study was designed as a preliminary study to find out the prevalence of malaria among the fever patients attending to District Hospital, Kilinochchi. Over the period of 3 months, 346 blood smears were prepared and microscopically examined by us and the microscopist at District Hospital, Kilinochchi. Among those fever patients, 87% of them had the previous history of malaria and completed the full course of malarial treatment. There was no difference between microscopic examination method or the results done by the microscopist and us. Based on the microscopic examination, it was found that the prevalence of malaria among the fever patients was 0.87%. Of the 0.87% (03) malarial patients, 66.67% were infected with *Plasmodium vivax* and 33.37% were infected with *Plasmodium falciparum*. The patient infected with *Plasmodium falciparum* was a resident of Batticaloa recently started working at Kilinochchi. Among the malarial patients, 66.67% were males and 33.37% were females. The children of age between 5 to 9 were mostly affected (66.67%) than the older patients (>15 years; 33.37). Patients' awareness regarding malaria was high (90%) with 50% of patients using mosquito coils, 40% using bed nets, 8% using smokes and 2% using home made net with sarees. Preliminary data from this study confirms the low prevalence of malaria cases in patients reported to the Kilinochchi, District Hospital. This study opened up an area to find out the reasons for the reduction in the prevalence of malaria within a short period.

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