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Self-medication with Antimalarial Drugs in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

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Abstract

A hospital-based cross-sectional study was conducted in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, using a questionnaire to assess the extent of self-medication with antimalarial drugs and malaria treatment-seeking behaviour among patients attending out-patient treatment at Mnazi mmoja dispensary. It was found that 15.3% of respondents admitted to having ever used malaria chemoprophylaxis while 8.0% reported to be current users of chemoprophylaxis. Among the current users of malaria chemoprophylaxis, some reported having used quinine and Fansidar. While 71.7% reported having treated themselves with home-kept antimalarial drugs for a suspected malaria fever, 14.7% consulted traditional healers. The data suggest the need for increasing public awareness on malaria and appropriate use of antimalarial drugs.