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P0027 Prevalence of Zika virus and malaria in patients with fever in secondary healthcare facilities in south-eastern Nigeria

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Background:

Zika manifests similar symptomatology as malaria. We sought to describe the frequency of Zika and malaria among patients presenting with fever to secondary health facilities in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Materials/methods:

Using a cross-sectional, stratified survey design we randomly selected 9 facilities and consecutively recruited a total of 100 participants (aged ≥ 1 year) who presented with fever. We tested blood samples for Zika virus immunoglobulin M (IgM), immunoglobulin G (IgG) and malaria.

Results:

Participants were aged between 1 and 78 (mean = 29) and 34.0% were male. 50% were urban dwellers. 42% reported taking antimalarial drugs prior to attending the health facility. 10% (95% CI: 4%, 20%) were seropositive for Zika virus (ZIKV) IgM, 12% (95% CI: 10%, 14%) for ZIKV IgG and 20% (95% CI: 12%, 30%) for ZIKV IgM, IgG or both. 5% (95% CI: 1%, 17%) were seropositive for ZIKV IgM, IgG or both while being negative for malaria. 55% (95% CI: 44%, 66%) were positive for malaria, and 15% (95% CI: 11%, 19%) were positive for both malaria and ZIKV IgM, IgG or both. Using logistic regression we also found a moderately negative association between urban vs rural household location and seropositivity for ZIKV IgM or IgG (odds ratio: 0.22, 95% CI: 0.45, 0.11).

Conclusions:

Zika infections appear common in patients attending secondary health facilities with fever in Cross River State, Nigeria, and frequently co-occur with malaria. Given the increased understanding of the risks posed by Zika infections, surveillance systems are clearly required in Nigeria and similar settings.

