

Malaria Laboratory Diagnostic Capacity in Kisii County Level 5 Hospital, Kenya.(2017)

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Abstract

In developing countries, malaria remains a major global public health concern whose laboratory diagnosis is paramount in its control. The present study sought to determine malaria laboratory diagnostic capacity in the Kisii Level 5 Hospital, Kenya by assessing staff capacity and competency. This was a cross-sectional, descriptive study conducted by administration of structured questionnaires to doctors, clinical officers, nurses and laboratory staff. Thematic content analyses were performed on qualitative data based on the framework and descriptive statistical analyses of quantitative data were conducted using Microsoft Excel and

SPSS. Two thirds of the respondents (67%) affirmed the laboratory participated in malaria control programs within the area.

The 8 hour shift scored 82% as the routine laboratory hours whereas laboratory accessibility was mostly between 3 to 5 days a week (64%). Laboratory diagnosis results were recorded in laboratory registers (56%) while others in log books and slide archives (both 22%). Poor slide preparation during diagnosis was observed. Fever, vomiting, headache and joint pain (90%, 72%, 62% and 56% respectively) were predominant used a symptoms for malaria by clinicians. The laboratory staff had basic level of education with certificate training in medical laboratory sciences. Malaria diagnosis was based on poorly prepared thin blood smears.

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