Barriers to prompt and effective malaria treatment: what matters

Christian Lengeler, Manuel Hetzel, Angel Dilip, Brigit Obrist, Sandra Alba, Nelly Iteba, Alex Schulze, Hassan Mshinda

Swiss Tropical Institute
Ifakara Health Research & Development Centre
Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development

MMV 2003-2007 Business Plan Update - modified

GLOBAL

Discovery ➔ Development

MMV Core R&D Activities

IMPLEMENTATION 1

Regulatory approval
Supportive drug policies
Sustainable financing
Tax environment
Pharmacovigilance
Quality monitoring
Manufacturing
Efficient public and private sector purchasing & distribution

IMPLEMENTATION 2

Promotion
Quality of care
Accessibility
Availability
Acceptability
Affordability
Adequacy
Compliance

1. Discover & Develop ➔ 2. Deliver & use effectively “Access”
Extending drug development to the true finish Line…

The ACCESS Programme:
“Understanding and improving access to prompt and effective malaria treatment and care for all malaria episodes in children and adults”

• Intervention-based programme in the Kilombero & Ulanga Districts of Tanzania
• Implemented 2004-2007 by the IHRDC and STI
• Supported by the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development
• Co-artem only introduced January 2007

Hetzel et al. 2007
Malaria Journal 6:83
The ACCESS malaria treatment model

**Recognition of illness and potential severity**
- Treatment seeking initiated

**Availability (of adequate services)**
- Perceived
- Real

**Acceptability**
- Perceived quality
- Beliefs

**Affordability**
- Indirect cost
- Direct cost

**Adequacy**
- Opening
- Waiting

**No action**
(n4)

**Alternatives, incl. tradit. healers**
(n3)

**Quality of service (diagnosis and prescription)**

**Drug efficacy (including quality)**

**Patient compliance (Adherence)**

**Health facility** (n1)

**Drug Shops** (n2)

**Effective treatment (within 24 hours)**
Treatment-seeking behaviour in 2004-2005 for fever episodes (no diagnosis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment sources</th>
<th>Children &lt;5 years</th>
<th>Adults &gt;12 years</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM from health facility</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>42.2-65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM from drug store</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>13.9-38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AM from general shop</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>4.4-18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health facility visit</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>65.4-85.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*AM = antimalarial

- Children use more health facilities than drug stores
- Adults use more drug stores than health facilities
- 89% of children and 82% of adults get an antimalarial
- Social marketing / health promotion seems to be working!

Source: Hetzel et al 2007

Availability: Drug stockouts in public health facilities

- Regular survey of 16 health facilities in 25 villages
- Antimalarial stock-outs October 2004 – May 2006:
  - In 10 health facilities (63%)
  - SP unavailable in 5 health facilities for over 5 months
  - May 2006: 7 of 10 HF without SP
  - Amodiaquine unavailable in 8 facilities for over 1 year
- Anecdotal evidence that co-artem availability (since January 2007) is also patchy, especially for first two weight categories
Accessibility of malaria treatment

- The 2001 policy change from chloroquine to sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) led to reduced availability because SP was not nearly so available any more in shops.
- As a result, the number of HH less than 5 Km from a shop selling an antimalarial decreased.
- 5 out of 25 study villages had no health facility and no shop as source of malaria treatment.

Source: Hetzel et al 2007

Affordability

- Exemption of fees for children and pregnant women often do not apply.
- Subsidized antimalarials are often not available in health facilities.
- In 2004-2006, 84% children payed for consultation fee and SP - between USD 0.04 and USD 1.3 (average USD 0.40).
- Cost in drug shops: USD 0.20-0.40 child dose.
- Cost of ACT completely unaffordable (USD 8-15).
- New initiative to lower cost of Co-artem in selected drug shops (Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets – ADDOs) with support from PMI.
- Similar initiative by the Clinton Foundation in another area.
Quality of care

- Re-training of all health care providers in IMCI treatment guidelines did not bring any improvement
- Pilot implementation of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) started in September 2007 in 5 health facilities
- Initiated (Quality Improvement and Recognition Initiative - QIRI) in 2007: advocacy with CHMT members and key stakeholders, training of service providers on QIRI principles and application, baseline assessment in 53 health facilities.

Compliance (adherence) of patient

- Very high with SP since one-dose treatment and often taken at health facility or drug shop
- Co-artem and other ACTs: Studies so far show good compliance but few unsupervised observations under programme situation; study planned for 2008

Drug efficacy

1) Drug efficacy
   - Around 60-80% parasitological efficacy of SP just before switch-over to Co-artem
   - Co-artem: around 95% efficacy

2) Quality of antimalarials available (study in 2005)
   - Quality problems were detected in:
     - 33% of the tablets produced in Tanzania
     - 20% .....“......in India
     - 18% .....“.... in Europe
     - 9% of Amodiaquine tablets
     - 24% of SP tablets
     - 40% of Quinine sulphate tablets (used frequently as first line treatment)
   - More substandard drugs were found in shops than in health facilities
### Community effectiveness of treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children (N=80)</th>
<th>Adults (N=57)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdosed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underdosed</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Hetzel et al 2007

### More challenges: ACT

- **Introduction of ACT in January 2007 (Co-artem)**
  - More complicated dosage – effect on compliance
  - Availability in health facilities first => no provision for treatments obtained through drug shops
  - Training of health facility staff partially successful

- **Global subsidy for ACT to come?**
Conclusions

- High efficacy does only translate into effective treatment unless a number of access issues are addressed
- Access issues are multiple and arise at different levels
- In this area of Tanzania there is close to an adequate response in the case of fever episodes, but the quality of services is low
- Drug availability is a chronic problem