



AAA e-NEWS BRIEF –APRIL 2013

AAA PREVENTIVE HEALTH PLAN: HOW TO PROTECT THE SEAT OF OUR BABIES

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Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

“JUST KNOW” Campaign emphasizes:

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

“Health before Wealth” Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicine
- Mouth hygiene

“Women's economic autonomy” through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

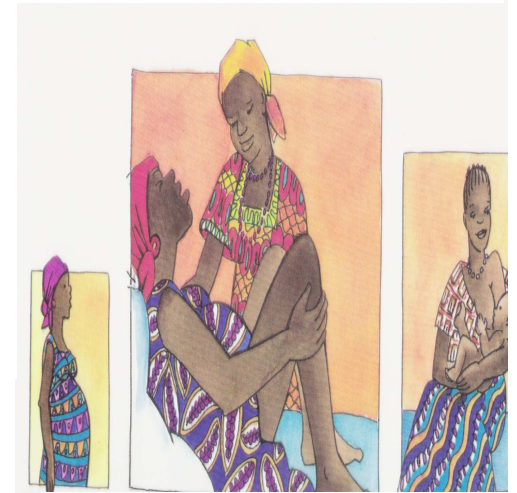
When a woman is pregnant, she is more susceptible to malaria than when she was not pregnant. This is because in being pregnant, she develops a PLACENTA that we usually refer to as THE SEAT OF THE BABY.

The malaria parasite also likes this placenta which in developing has structures that permits receptors on the parasite surface to bind to it. Malaria parasites therefore bind to the placenta and there are usually more parasites in the placenta as only a few go into the blood circulation. When the density of these parasites is low in the placenta, they do not get to the circulation. So when blood is taken from such a woman for malaria diagnosis by microscopy, parasites are not seen, whereas they are in the placenta. It has been shown that diagnosis is wrongly made as such in one out of every four women. There are rapid diagnostic tests that have improved the situation, but not widely used as yet all over the country (Cameroon).

The parasites in the placenta cause inflammatory reactions that lead to spontaneous abortions, still births, and babies that are born are of low birth weight which is a primary cause of infant mortality during the first year of life. The parasites in developing destroy the red blood cells in the pregnant woman and she develops anemia.

To avoid this situation, pregnant women should always attend prenatal consultations in hospitals and health centers. At these consultations, they will be administered Intermittent Preventive Treatment, IPTp by the health care providers. This consists of a dose of Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (fansidar) starting from the second trimester AFTER THE BABY STARTS MOVING, and given at least one month apart at the next prenatal consultations. This is free of charge. It will prevent malaria parasites developing in the blood and placenta of these women. And if she develops any malaria fever, she should rapidly go to the health facility where she will be given quinine.

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Attending prenatal consultations is the ANSWER!



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