

Statistical Comparison to Determine First Line Regimen of Two Anti-Malarial for Uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* Malaria among Children under 5 Years

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Abstract

Comparison of regimen efficacy in clinical medicine has been utilized to improve the effect of drugs against disease. The paired alternative t-test method approach is used in this experimental study to derive efficacy estimates of two anti-malarial regimens. This study aimed at comparing mostly used drugs against malaria in Africa in the present time, namely artesunate-mefloquine and artemether-lumefantrine to determine which of them is more effective treatment of the disease among children under 5 years of age and thus may be considered as a first line treatment, especially when laboratory tests are not available. The results achieved in this study were based on hypothetical experimental data. The data which represented 12 pairs of match's children were analyzed using t tests with the help of SSS program. The study concluded that artesunate-mefloquine is more effective as a first line treatment than artemether-lumefantrine in children less than five years age of both sexes.

Keywords: Malaria; Children; Sudan; Regimen

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Background

The main objective of this study is to enhance methodology in epidemiological research and illustrate a procedure to test therapeutic responses post anti-malarial treatment of two regimens. The purpose of this kind of study is to illustrate to young researcher in the health field who are not familiar with statistical experimental design how to measure and compare anti-malarial clinical efficacy. Many studies have been made to test the superiority of a traditional drug against another drug [1]. This has become a routine for pharmacists to test their drugs. Malaria in Africa has, especially, become a problematic endemic disease resisting various kinds of drugs and such statistical tests are continuously needed in any attempt to control the disease. For this reason the study aimed at comparing two mostly used drugs against malaria in the present time, namely artesunate-mefloquine and artemether-lumefantrine to determine which of them is more effective treatment of the disease among children under 5 years of age. Rapid treatment of malaria is necessary to avoid life-threatening complications, especially in the absence of laboratory tests, so comparing the two most important treatments

currently in use in most African countries in the malaria zone will enable us to identify the best treatment as a first line to treat malaria in such cases. The study is basically concerned with explaining the methodology rather than obtaining robust results.

The t- distribution

Definition: If Y is a standard normal random variable and Z is a Gamma random variable with parameters n and h=1, independent of Y. Then X a random variable has a standard Student's t distribution with n degrees of freedom if it can be written as a ratio

$$X = \frac{Y}{\sqrt{Z}}$$

Equivalently, we can write:

$$X = \frac{Y}{\sqrt{\frac{X^2}{n}}}$$

Where χ^2 - Chi-square is a random variable with n degrees of

freedom (dividing by n a Chi-square random variable with n degrees of freedom, one obtains a Gamma random variable with parameters $\alpha=1/2$ and $\beta=2$ [2].

Definitions the distribution related to the t distribution

Definition of normal distribution: The normal distribution, also known as the Gaussian distribution, is a probability distribution most often used to describe the behavior of a variable clustered around a mean. When graphed, it takes the shape of a bell curve where the peak of the bell is the mean μ , and the width is determined by the standard deviation σ . The equation

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

Calculate a normal distribution is, where the standard normal distribution occurs when mean=0 and variance=1. By virtue of the central limit theorem (which states that the distribution of the mean of a large data set tends to a normal distribution), the normal distribution is very useful in statistical analysis of populations and is often encountered in natural sciences [3].

Characteristic function

- The expected value of a normal random variable X is $E(x)=\mu$.
- The variance of a normal random variable X is $\text{Var}(x)=\sigma^2$.
- The moment generating function of a normal random variable X is defined for any

$$t \in \mathbb{R}: M(t) = \exp\left(\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2\right)$$

If $\mu=0$ and $\sigma^2=1$ then the distribution called standard normal distribution [3].

Derivation of t-distribution: For random samples from normal distribution with mean μ and standard deviation σ , σ^2 has a standard normal distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2/n . There for the statistic:

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}$$

Has a standard normal distribution with mean 0 and variance 1.

The main problem here is that the standard deviation is unknown and it is necessary to use the sample standard deviation but this needs the following amendment. To find the corresponding distribution we start with the joint probability density function for the variables (s, t).

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \cdot \frac{1}{\Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right) 2^{\frac{v}{2}}} y^{\frac{v-1}{2}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}}$$

where x has a standard normal distribution with parameters 0,1 and y has a gamma distribution with $\alpha=v/2$ and $\beta=2$.

For $-\infty < x < \infty$ and $y > 0$, and $f(x, y) = 0$ elsewhere, hence. If t is related to x with following relationship

$$t = \frac{x}{\sqrt{y/v}}$$

Hence

$$x^2 = \frac{t^2 y}{v}$$

And

$$x = t\sqrt{y/v}$$

$$\left|\frac{dx}{dt}\right| = \sqrt{y/v}$$

Hence:

$$g(t, y) = f(x, y) \cdot \left|\frac{dx}{dt}\right|$$

and we get

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \cdot \frac{1}{\Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right) 2^{\frac{v}{2}}} y^{\frac{v-1}{2}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}}$$

Substituting in (1)

$$g(t, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} e^{-\frac{t^2 y}{2v}} \times y^{\frac{v-2}{2}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}} \sqrt{y/v}$$

$$g(t, y) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v}{2}} \sqrt{2\pi}\Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} y^{\frac{v-2}{2}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}} \frac{y^{\frac{v-2}{2}}}{2v} \sqrt{y/v}$$

$$g(t, y) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v}{2}} \sqrt{2\pi}\Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} y^{\frac{v-1}{2}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}\left(1+\frac{t^2}{v}\right)} \quad (2)$$

Now substitute

$$z = \frac{y}{2} \left(1 + \frac{t^2}{v}\right)$$

So that

$$y = \frac{2z}{1 + \frac{t^2}{v}}, \quad \frac{dy}{dz} = \frac{2}{1 + \frac{t^2}{v}}$$

Substituting in (2), we get

$$g(t, z) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v}{2}} \sqrt{2v\pi}\Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} \int_0^{\infty} \left(\frac{2z}{1 + \frac{t^2}{v}}\right)^{\frac{v-1}{2}} e^{-z} \frac{2}{1 + \frac{t^2}{v}} dz$$

$$g(t, z) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v+1}{2}} \sqrt{\pi v} \Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} \times \frac{2^{\frac{v+1}{2}}}{\left(1+t^2/v\right)^{\frac{v+1}{2}}} \int_0^{\infty} z^{\frac{v-1}{2}} e^{-z} \frac{2}{1+t^2/v} dz$$

$$g(t) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v+1}{2}} \sqrt{\pi v} \Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} \times \frac{2^{\frac{v+1}{2}}}{\left(1+t^2/v\right)^{\frac{v+1}{2}}} \times \Gamma\left(\frac{v+1}{2}\right)$$

$$g(t, y) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v}{2}} \sqrt{\pi v} \Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} y^{\frac{v-1}{2}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}\left(1+\frac{t^2}{v}\right)} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{v+1}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{\pi v} \Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right) \left(1+t^2/v\right)^{\frac{v+1}{2}}}$$

$$g(t) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{v+1}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{\pi v} \Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)} \times \left(1+\frac{t^2}{v}\right)^{\frac{v+1}{2}}$$

And this is the probability density function of t [4].

Independent t-test assumptions

- The two samples are randomly and independently selected from the two populations.
- The two populations are normally distributed.
- The two sample variances are equal.

Paired t-test assumptions

- Since the observations are paired in this case we test the differences.
- The population of differences has a normal distribution.
- The differences are independent.
- The differences have equal mean and variance

The t-Test for pairs (Equal samples): The t test for pairs is used when the sample size is too small and the variance of the distribution of pairs is not known. Such usage of small sampling theory in clinical medicine is governed by a number of axioms that have to be satisfied when selecting the sample. These axioms are:

- 1- The selected sample pairs have to be in the same age range.
- 2- The selected sample pairs have to be of the same sex.
- 3- The selected sample pairs have to be of the same prognosis.
- 4- Occupation period of the disease should approximately be equal for the selected pairs patients.

The satisfaction of the axioms above are more important than the sample size [5] (Table 1).

The table above provides an example of applying the t test. We have 12 matched pairs which were subjected to two different treatments A and B and when the number of pairs is equal (12 in this case) the model works with the differences between the two treatments for testing the null hypothesis that:

$$H_0 : \mu_A = \mu_B$$

$$H_1 : \mu_A \neq \mu_B$$

To apply the test first calculates the average difference \bar{D} and the standard error of the mean SD:

Difference To obtain this the common variance is calculated as

$$SD^2_{diff} = \sum D^2 - \frac{(\sum D)^2}{n}. \text{ This is then divided by } n-1 \text{ to give } SD^2, \text{ then}$$

we get the standard error of the mean by taking the square root

of SD^2 divided by the sample size i.e., $\sqrt{\frac{SD^2}{n}}$ and finally we divide

\bar{D} by the standard error of the mean to get the t statistics as

$$t = \frac{\bar{D}}{SD} \sqrt{n}.$$

Data:

To collect data on comparative treatments effect is always a complicated task. This especially true when comparing the effect of two anti-malarial drugs. The difficulty arises for a number of reasons.

1. If the plasmodium parasite is scanty, it does not appear in the blood film after taking any of the anti-malarial drugs although it is present in the patient blood. This is a characteristic of people who are repeatedly infected by malaria. For this reason the study should include in the experiment patients who develop the disease for the first time with severe but uncomplicated symptoms.
2. While the treatments are different in two groups, researchers should try to keep as many of the conditions the same as possible. The alternative pairs who will be given the two drugs alternatively should be of the same age group, same sex and having the same prognosis.
3. The inclusion criteria of severe malaria means that only patients with an account of malaria parasite in 100 fields of an oil emersion lens should have a mean number of parasites of 30 and over to satisfy normality assumption. Under such criteria the size of the comparison sample cannot be large because the researcher has to wait for a patient with all the above characteristics to report to health facility. This means that samples are longitudinal in nature.
4. Because samples sizes will be very small, the researcher will have to use small sampling theory tests such as t-student, chi-square or F test. Such framework can only be applied in clinical medicine where experiments are highly controlled. This makes things even more complicated because the patients should be inpatients. Moreover, the researcher should have agreement of collaboration of a doctor and a pathologist working in the facility, in addition to strict ethical considerations and of course financial support.
5. A hypothetical trial experimental trial is presented here to illustrate the application of the procedure using SPSS program. The bench mark parasite counts per 100 fields for hypothetical cohorts of male and female children 0-4

years are based on educated guessing. Treatments to be compared are artesunate-mefloquine and artemether-lumefantrine. The hypothetical cohorts are presented in **Tables 2 and 3** successively. Each table shows Parasite count before treatment and Parasite count 24 hours after treatment (**Tables 4 and 5**).

Methods of Estimation

The results shown here are, of course, illustrative: All results are based on output from SPSS package

To remind the reader, our experiment involves two outcomes. Malaria parasite count in 100 fields of an emersion lens for twelve pairs of male children represents experiment 1 denoted

in the analysis as “patient 1”. Similar experiment for females is denoted as “patient 2”.

Test of independence between males and females samples

Tests the significance of the difference between the two samples means. The procedure provides descriptive statistics for each test variables together with a test of variance equality and a 95% confidence interval for the difference. The two variables involved in our study are the parasite densities of males and females before taking any treatment in the first experiment (patient 1). For simplicity artesunate-mefloquine is referred to as “Quartum” and artemether-lumefantrine as “Artemether”.

Table 1 Cell readings of 12 Alternate pairs given two different treatments.

Pairs of Patients	Treatment		Difference A-B
	Treatment A	Treatment B	
1	X_1	Y_1	D_1
2	X_2	Y_2	D_2
3	X_3	Y_3	D_3
4	X_4	Y_4	D_4
5	X_5	Y_5	D_5
6	X_6	Y_6	D_6
7	X_7	Y_7	D_7
8	X_8	Y_8	D_8
9	X_9	Y_9	D_9
10	X_{10}	Y_{10}	D_{10}
11	X_{11}	Y_{11}	D_{11}
12	X_{12}	Y_{12}	D_{12}
Total	$\sum_1^{12} x_{Ai}$	$\sum_1^{12} y_{Bi}$	$\sum_1^{12} D_i$
Mean	\bar{X}_A	\bar{Y}_B	\bar{D}

Table 2 Cell readings of 12 Alternate pairs of children (0-4) given two different anti-malarial treatments. Source: hypothetical data (**Males A**).

Patient pairs	Parasite count before treatment		Parasite count 24 hours after treatment	
	Patient 1	Patient 2	artesunate-mefloquine	artemether-lumefantrine
1	109	106	33	38
2	101	103	36	20
3	111	109	45	25
4	107	105	50	33
5	102	101	44	19
6	107	106	51	32
7	105	104	34	27
8	115	108	50	22
9	110	116	35	43
10	107	113	35	31
11	108	102	46	29
12	107	112	34	32

Table 3 Cell readings of 12 Alternate pairs of children (0-4) given two different anti-malarial treatments. Source: hypothetical data (Females B).

Patient pairs	Parasite count before treatment		Parasite count 24 hours after treatment	
	Patient 1	Patient 2	artesunate-mefloquine	artemether-lumefantrine
1	108	104	30	22
2	105	105	37	22
3	112	101	25	15
4	117	105	40	30
5	112	105	45	29
6	101	106	52	22
7	103	104	33	26
8	105	104	50	20
9	116	115	55	41
10	105	112	35	30
11	102	100	36	24
12	104	100	34	22

Table 4 Descriptive statistics. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Patient 1 1males (0-4) before treatment	7	108.4286	3.25869	1.23167
	5	106.0000	4.35890	1.94936
Patient t 1 females(0-4) before treatment	7	105.1429	5.01427	1.89521
	5	110.8000	4.54973	2.03470

Table 5 t-test of equality of means. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		t-test for Equality of Means						
		T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
							Lower	Upper
Experiment 1males (0-4) before treatment	Equal variances assumed	1.110	10	.293	2.42857	2.18865	-2.44805-	7.30520
	Equal variances not assumed	1.053	7.079	.327	2.42857	2.30586	-3.01161-	7.86875
Experiment 2 females(0-4) before treatment	Equal variances assumed	-1.999	10	.074	-5.65714-	2.83039	-11.96364-	.64936
	Equal variances not assumed	-2.034	9.290	.071	-5.65714-	2.78062	-11.91755-	.60326

Usually, the groups in a two-sample t test are fixed by design, and the grouping variable has one value for each group. However, there are times when assignment to one of two groups can be made on the basis of an existing scale variable [6]. With the Independent-Samples t- Test procedure, all we need to provide is a cut point. The SPSS program divides the sample in two at the cut point and performs the t test. The virtue of this method is that the cut point can easily be changed without the need to re-create the grouping variable by hand every time. The procedure first produces (Table 4).

The descriptive table displays the sample size cut of points, mean, standard deviation, and standard error for both groups. On average parasite count for males (3.5 units of the mean) is less than the comparison group (females), and they vary a little less around their standard deviations (Table 4).

Test of Difference

The procedure produces two tests of the difference between the two groups (Table 3). One test assumes that the variances of the

two groups are equal and the other assumes that they are not. The procedure produces t-test for both. The average significance value of the statistic is 0.191. Because this value is greater than 0.10, we can assume that the two groups have equal variances and ignore the second test (Table 5).

The 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference provides an estimate of the boundaries between which the true mean difference lies in 95% of all possible random samples of 12 pairs. Since the significance values of the test are greater than 0.05, we can safely conclude that the average of 0.191 malaria parasites per 100 fields is not due to chance alone and the assumption that the two sample means are equal cannot be accepted. Hence the two samples are independent.

The same test was done for experiment two (patient 2) and arrived to the same conclusion i.e., the two samples are independent.

Paired-samples t- test

The Paired-Samples T Test procedure compares the means of two variables for single pairs. The procedure computes the differences between values of the two variables for each case and tests whether the average differs from 0. In this study on comparative malaria treatment, number of parasites per 100 fields of an oil emulsion lens are counted at the beginning of the study, given treatment 1, (a) and measured again. The same procedure was repeated for treatment 2 (Quartum). A third comparison is done for both treatment after taking the drug and test that the difference does differ from 0. Thus, each subject has two counts, often called before and after measures and after treatment for both. An alternative design for which this test is used is a matched-pair (see chapter one for pairs matching criteria) in which each record in the data file contains the response for the patient and also for his or her matched pair. It is the second procedure that is used here.

The procedure provides statistics: for each variable: mean, sample size, standard deviation, and standard error of the mean. For each pair of variables: correlation, average difference in means, t test, and 95% confidence interval for mean difference (one can specify the confidence level).

The descriptive table displays the mean, sample size, standard deviation, and standard error for both groups. Across all 12 pairs, parasite load dropped substantially, a drop of 61% after 24 hours from taking Artemether. Now we have to confirm that this large drop is not due to chance. But before that we have to establish that the variables under the study are approximately normal (Table 6).

Tests of normality

The tests of normality overlay a normal curve on actual data, to assess the fit. A significant test means the fit is poor. For Patient 1 (parasite load before treatment - males) the test is not significant; they fit the normal curve well. The conclusion applies for patient 2. (Parasite load before treatment - females). These are the original pairs which are normally distributed so are any other distributions based on them. We test whether the proportion of parasites in the blood follows normal distribution. The test results are shown in Table 7. Both have no significance according

Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests suggesting that both are approximately normal (Table 8). The fit displays approximately normal curves for both variables (Figures 1A and 1B).

Testing the Effectiveness of Artemether Analyses for males

In the descriptive analysis above we have shown that administration of Artemether to male children 0-4 reduces the parasite load by 61% after 24 hours of administration. Now we test the significance of this drop. The test begins by showing correlation for Artemether before and after. At 0.45 the correlation between the before treatment and after treatment levels is not statistically significant. Levels were lower overall, but the change was inconsistent across subjects (Table 8).

In Table 7, the Mean column in the paired-samples t test table displays the average difference in parasite count for Artemether experiment between before and after treatment (Table 9).

The Std. Deviation column displays the standard deviation of the average difference score. The Std. Error Mean column provides

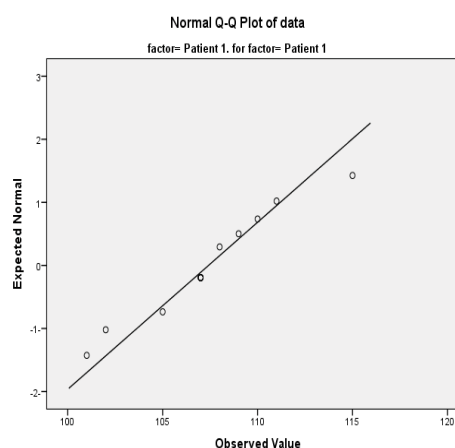


Figure 1A Normal curve fitted to observed variables.

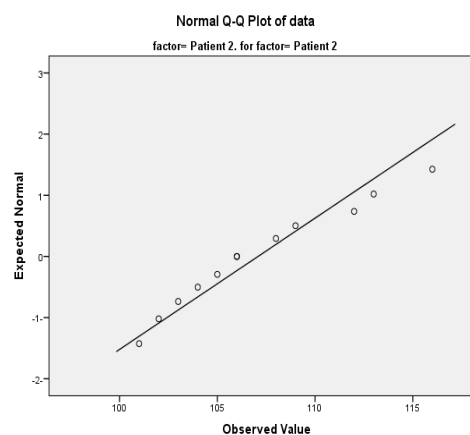


Figure 1B Normal curve fitted to observed variables. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

Table 6 Paired samples statistics for male. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Parasite before Artemether administration for male	107.42	12	3.777	1.090
	Parasite after Artemether administration for male	41.92	12	8.743	2.524

Table 7 Tests of normality. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

	Factor	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
		Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Data	Patient 1	.206	12	.170	.955	12	.707
	Patient 2	.175	12	.200*	.948	12	.613

Table 8 Paired samples correlations for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Parasite before Artemether administration for male & Parasite after Artemether administration for males	12	.450	.142

Table 9 Paired samples test for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Parasite before Artemether administration for male - Parasite after Artemether administration for male	65.500	7.810	2.255	60.538	70.462	29.051	11	.000

Table 10 Paired samples statistics for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Parasite before Quartum administration for males	107.0833	12	4.66044	1.34535
	Parasite After Quartum administration for males	29.2500	12	7.16208	2.06752

Table 11 Paired samples correlations for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Parasite before Quartum administration for males & Parasite After Quartum administration for males	12	.609	.010

an index of the variability one can expect in repeated random samples of 12 patients as in this study. The 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference provides an estimate of the boundaries between which the true mean difference lies in 95% of our sample of 12. The t statistic is obtained by dividing the mean difference by its standard error.

The Sig. (2-tailed) column displays the probability of obtaining a t statistic whose absolute value is equal to or greater than the obtained t statistic. Since the significance value for drop in

parasite is less than 0.05, we can conclude that the average drop of 62% of parasite per patient is not due to chance variation, and can be attributed to the Artemether. The conclusion from this is that Artemether is a very effective drug for malaria treatment among male's children 0-4.

The same tests were performed for female's children which indicated that Across all 12 pairs, parasite load dropped substantially, a drop of 73% after 48 hours from taking Artemether with higher correlation (0.599) and a significant difference from 0.

Table 12 Paired samples test for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Parasite before Quartum administration for males - Parasite After Quartum administration for males	77.83333	5.74984	1.65983	74.18006	81.48660	46.892	11	.000

Table 13 Paired samples statistics for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Parasite after Artemether administration for males	41.92	12	8.743	2.524
	Parasite After Quartum administration for males	29.2500	12	7.16208	2.06752

Table 14 Paired samples correlations for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	Parasite after Artemether administration for males & Parasite After Quartum administration for males	12	-.0357	.255

Table 15 Paired samples test for males. Source: SPSS output based on hypothetical samples of males and females under 5.

		Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Parasite after Artemether administration for males - Parasite After Quartum administration for males	12.66667	13.13104	3.79061	4.32360	21.00973	3.342	11	.007

Testing the Effectiveness of Quartum

Analyses for males

The descriptive **Table 10**, displays the mean, sample size, standard deviation, and standard error for both groups. Across all 12 pairs, parasite load dropped substantially, a drop of 78% after 24 hours from taking Quartum. Now we have to confirm that this large drop is not due to chance (**Table 10**).

The test begins by showing correlation for Quartum before and after at 0.609 the correlation between before treatment and after treatment levels is t statistically significant. Levels were slightly above medium overall; the change was slightly consistent across subjects (**Table 11**).

In **Table 11**, the Mean column in the paired-samples t test table displays the average difference in parasite count for Quartum experiment between before and after treatment (**Table 12**).

The Std. Deviation column displays the standard deviation of the average difference score. The Std. Error Mean column provides an index of the variability one can expect in repeated random samples of 12 patients as in this study. The 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference provides an estimate of the boundaries between which the true mean difference lies in 95% of our sample of 12. The t statistic is obtained by dividing the mean difference by its standard error.

The Sig. (2-tailed) column displays the probability of obtaining a t statistic whose absolute value is equal to or greater than the obtained t statistic. Since the significance value for drop in parasite is less than 0.05, we can conclude that the average drop of 78% of parasite per patient is not due to chance variation, and can be attributed to the Quartum.

The conclusion from this is that Quartum is a very effective drug

for malaria treatment among male children 0-4. The same tests were performed for female's children which indicated that Across all 12 pairs, parasite load dropped substantially, a drop of 80% after 24 hours from taking Quartum with even higher correlation (0.795) and a significant difference from 0.

Comparison between quartum and artemether

Comparison between quartum and artemether for males: The descriptive **Table 13**, displays the mean, sample size, standard deviation, and standard error for both groups. For both treatment parasite loads dropped. The percentage difference of the dropped is 71% in favor of Quartum. Now we have to confirm that this large drop is not due to chance (**Table 13**).

The test begins by showing correlation for parasite after Quartum and Artemether administration at (-0.357) the correlation between the Quartum treatment and Artemether treatment levels is inverse but statistically insignificant. Levels were lower overall, but the change was inconsistent across subjects (**Table 14**).

In **Table 15**, the Mean column in the paired-samples t test table displays the average difference in parasite count for Quartum and Artemether experiment after treatment.

The Std. Deviation column displays the standard deviation of the average difference score. The Std. Error Mean column provides an index of the variability one can expect in repeated random samples of 12 patients as in this study. The 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference provides an estimate of the boundaries between which the true mean difference lies in 95% of our sample of 12. The t statistic is obtained by dividing the mean difference by its standard error.

References

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The Sig. (2-tailed) column displays the probability of obtaining a t statistic whose absolute value is equal to or greater than the obtained t statistic. Since the significance value for drop in parasite is less than 0.05, we can conclude that the average drop of (71%) of parasite per patient is not due to chance variation, and can be attributed to the treatment.

The conclusion from this is that Quartum is more effective drug for malaria treatment among male's children 0-4 than Artemether. The conclusion from this is that Quartum is a very effective drug for malaria treatment among male children 0-4. The same tests were performed for female's children which indicated that across all 12 pairs, parasite load dropped substantially, a drop of 80% after 24 hours from taking Quartum with moderate correlation (0.524) and a significant difference from 0. The conclusion to be drawn from this is that Quartum is more effective drug for malaria treatment among female's children 0-4 than Artemether.

Conclusion

At present, probably the most common drugs commonly used, at last in Africa, and has some potency are the so-called artesunate-mefloquine and artemether-lumefantrine, but this does not prevent that there is resistance to these drugs from the majority of patients. Using a Monte-Carlo like trial, this illustrative study calculated the cure rate of malaria using these regimens found that both are highly effective. The study revealed that artemether-lumefantrine is more effective drug for malaria treatment among both males and females children 0-4 than Artemether This result has been confirmed for both males and females. If these results were drawn from real controlled data, then one would recommend artesunate-mefloquine as first line antimalarial. We recommend that such trial be sponsored and conducted in Africa.