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Equity in uptake of diarrhea and pneumonia treatment in a community case management program in Uganda

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A community health worker examines a child for fast breathing a sign of pneumonia

Key messages

While ORS and zinc uptake has increased among children with diarrhea since the launch of the iCCM program, the overall coverage is still low.

Despite significant increase in the number of children with pneumonia receiving amoxicillin since iCCM program initiation, coverage is still sub optimal.

Though no significant inequalities are observed in this iCCM program, there is need for advocacy for its uptake, especially for diarrhea treatments.

Introduction

Diarrhea and pneumonia unduly affect children. Integrated community case management for diarrhea and pneumonia in addition to fever (iCCM) is advocated for in the fight against the diseases.

Objective

To assess if there were any changes in uptake of recommended first line treatment for diarrhea (ORS +zinc) and pneumonia (amoxicillin) following iCCM.

Methods

Data were drawn from a before (2009) and after (2012) study of 1226 and 1492 children aged 2-59 months. Change in treatment uptake was evaluated through χ^2 tests. Concentration indices for equity in uptake were generated for both time points.

Results

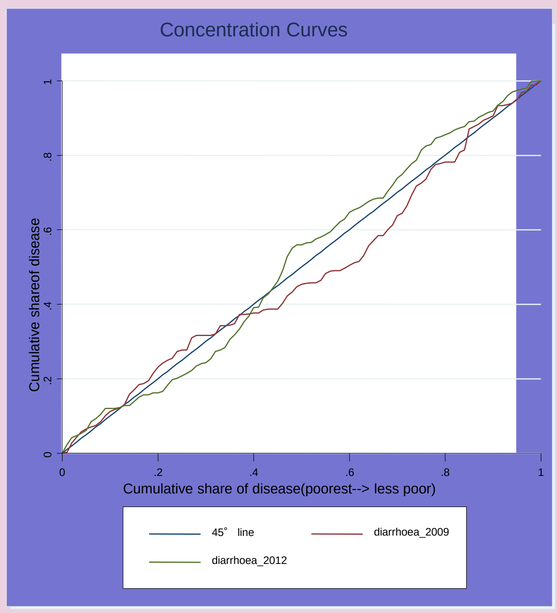
Disease prevalence in children under five

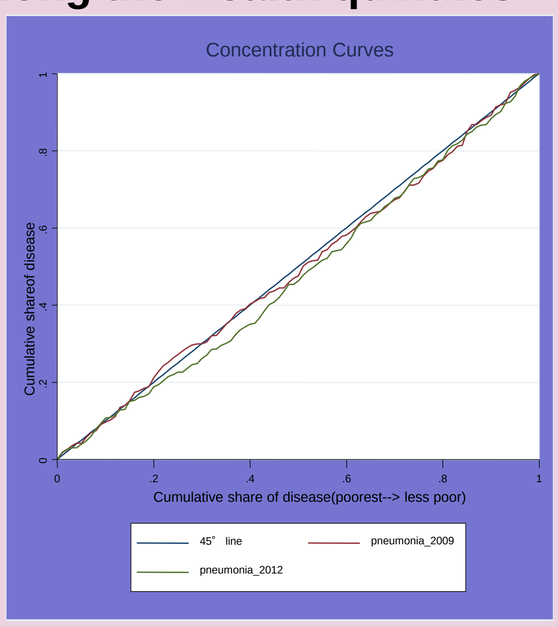
Disease	Total (prevalence)	P-value
Diarrhea (2009)	1226 (14.7%)	<0.001
Diarrhea (2012)	1492 (15.4%)	
Pneumonia (2009)	1226 (22.3%)	<0.001
Pneumonia (2012)	1492 (30.6%)	

Proportion of children receiving recommended first line treatments

Treatment	Proportion 2009 N=1226	Proportion 2012 N=1492	P-value
Amoxicillin	258 (19.4%)	451 (40.6%)	<0.001
ORS	168 (40.6%)	227(46.3%)	0.001
ORS+ Zinc	168 (2.9%)	227 (13.0%)	0.001

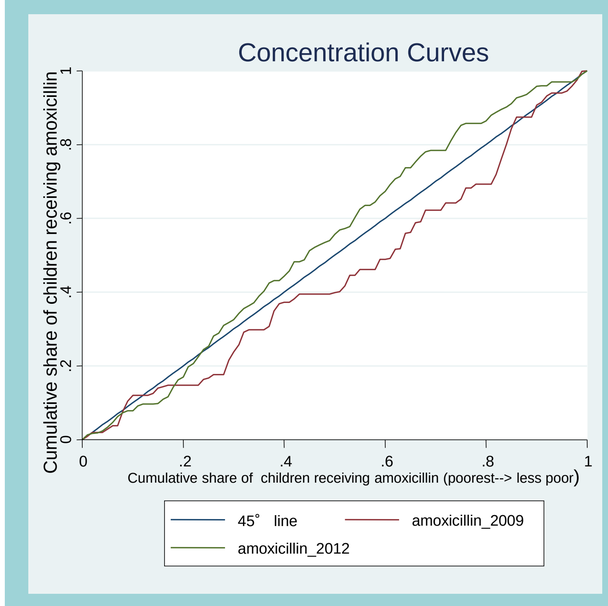
Distribution of disease among the wealth quintiles

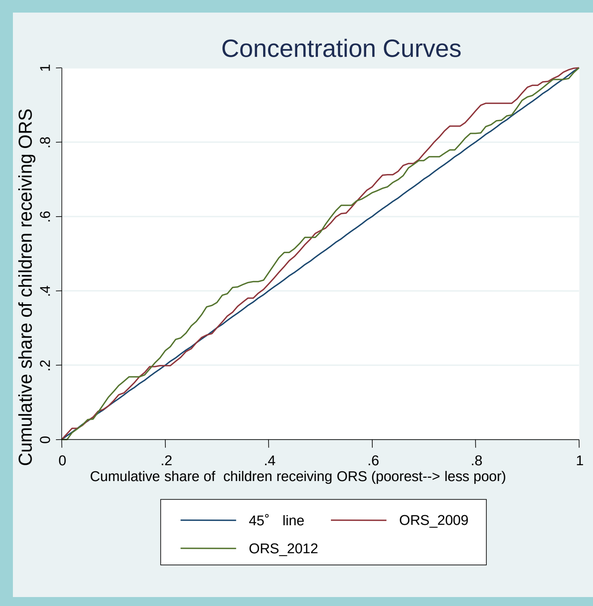




Concentration curves and concentration indices show a non-significant increase in diarrhea prevalance among the poorest. No changes in pneumonia prevalence among the poor are observed

Distribution of treatment among the wealth quintiles





Concentration curves and concentration indices show a non-significant increase in amoxicillin coverage amongst the poorest. ORS use was more prevalent among the poorest at both time points.

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