

# Negative malaria test case management in the private retail outlets: Results from mystery patient surveys in Nigeria and Uganda

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## Key messages

- Despite prior negative confirmatory test, 40% of mystery patients in Nigeria and 35% in Uganda were still given a positive result.
- Among patients testing negative, 30% in Nigeria and 7% in Uganda were given artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs).

## Introduction

- Malaria remains endemic in both Uganda and Nigeria, over 80% of the population at risk of disease in either country.
- Both countries have recommended universal parasitological confirmation before treatment.
- Private sector plays a critical role in , where 40-60% of febrile cases seek care.
- In private outlets offering testing services, adherence to guidelines on negative case management remains unclear.

## Methods

- **Mystery patient surveys** were conducted to understand provider's case management following a negative test result.
- Consenting adults who were confirmed malaria negative using malaria rapid diagnostic tests (mRDTs) underwent training as mystery clients.
- Outlets known to be offering testing services were visited. Mystery clients 'acted' sick, describing symptoms likely to indicate suspected malaria thus leading the provider to conduct a malaria test.
- Visit experiences were later captured through an interviewer administered questionnaire.
- All outlet visits took place within seven days of initial screening test.

## Results

- Surveys were conducted in December 2013 in Uganda and in November 2014 in Nigeria.
- In Nigeria, 131 visits were conducted by 63 mystery patients while 196 visits were conducted by 65 patients.
- In both countries, outlets visited were mainly clinics and drug shops.
- 75/131 (57%) and 74/176 (42%) of all tests were conducted using mRDT in Nigeria and Uganda respectively.

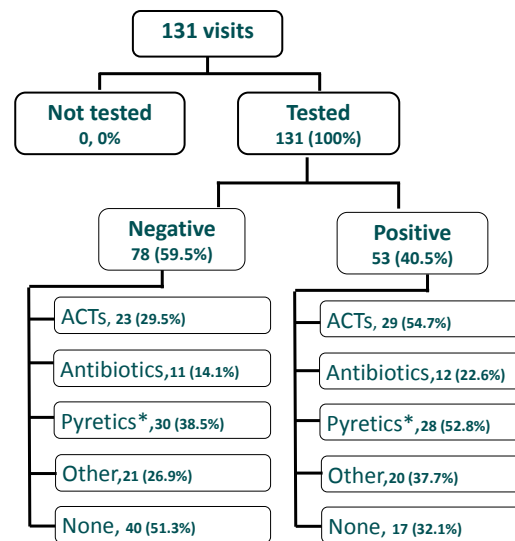


Figure 1: Mystery patient case management in Nigeria

\*These included both pyretics and analgesics.

<sup>B</sup> A total of 50 received antimalarial, 24 received ACTs awhile 26 received other antimalarials. The "Others" category mainly comprised of multivitamins

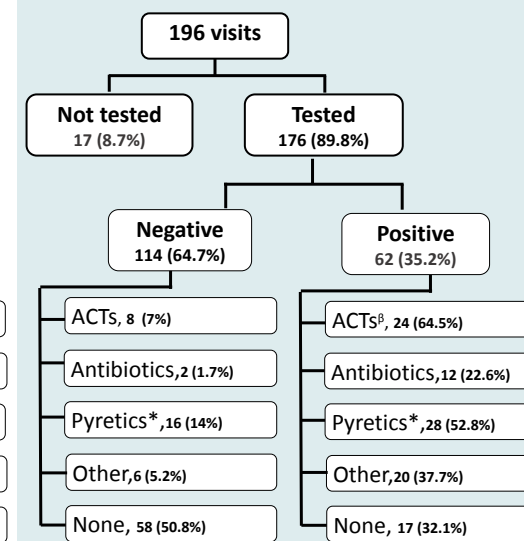


Figure 2: Mystery patient case management in Uganda



One of the outlets (a clinic) that was visited in Uganda

## Conclusion

- Evidence from the study suggests an alteration of negative results.
- Adherence to non-malaria case management is still sub optimal
- There is need to further understand the factors driving anti malaria prescriptions despite negative results.

## Acknowledgements

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