

## **Levels of adherence to coartem© in the routine treatment of uncomplicated malaria in children aged below five years, in kenya.**

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### ABSTRACT

This study sought to determine the level of adherence to Coartem© in the routine treatment of uncomplicated malaria among children under the age of five years in Nyando district, Kenya. Seventy-three children below the age of five years with microscopically confirmed uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria and prescribed Coartem(®) during the normal outpatient department hours were included into the study on 27(th) of April to 15(th) of May 2009. Adherence was assessed through a semi-structured interviewer administered questionnaire; pill count and blister pack recovery. Patients were then classified into three categories of adherence. Patients who had tablets remaining in the blister pack were classified as definitely non-adherent. Those who had blister pack missing or empty and the caretaker did not report administering all the doses at the correct time and amount were considered probably non-adherent or as probably adherent when the caretaker reported administering all doses at the correct time and amount.

Nine (14.5%) patients were definitely non-adherent, 6 (9.7%) probably non-adherent and 47 (75.8%) probably adherent. The most significantly left tablet was the sixth doses ( $P = 0.029$ ). Caretakers should be made much aware that non-adherence might not only be dangerous to child's health but also dramatically increase the financial cost for public-health services.