

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Journal of Medicine and Health Research</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JOMHR_12730
Title of the Manuscript:	Malaria and soil transmitted helminth coinfection among school-aged children in Mkpato Enin Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
Type of the Article	

**PART 1: Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p><b>Cover page</b>  <b>Missing Author Details in Abstract Submission.</b>            Could you kindly provide the following details for inclusion? Full names of all authors.            Institutional affiliations (department, institution, and location) and Contact details for the corresponding author</p> <p><b>ABSTRACT</b></p> <p><b>1. Simplify and Clarify Language:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overly technical terms to make the abstract accessible to a broader audience, including policymakers and public health practitioners.</li> <li>• For example, replace "air-dried blood smears" with "microscopic examination of blood samples" and "formalin-ether concentration method" with "standard stool analysis techniques."</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Focus on Co-Infection Implications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand on the impact of co-infections, particularly their potential to complicate treatment and increase disease burden in children. This would enhance the abstract's relevance to public health priorities.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>3. Include Targeted Interventions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Specify possible public health strategies based on the findings. For example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>For malaria: Distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), environmental vector control, or seasonal malaria chemoprevention.</b></li> <li>○ <b>For STHs: Routine deworming programs, improved sanitation, and health education on hygiene practices.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>4. Report Statistical Details:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Add confidence intervals or exact p-values for key findings to increase the reliability and scientific rigor of the results.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>5. Highlight Seasonality Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Acknowledge the potential impact of seasonal variations on infection rates, as the study was conducted between May and July. This will help contextualize the findings for readers.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>6. Streamline Methodological Details:</b></p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Summarize methods concisely to leave more room for interpretation of findings and public health relevance.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>7. Revisit the Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strengthen the conclusion by emphasizing how the findings can guide integrated control strategies for malaria and STHs in the region. For example: "These findings underscore the need for integrated interventions, combining malaria prevention efforts with routine deworming campaigns, while considering demographic factors such as age and sex to optimize outcomes."</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>8. Overloaded Sentences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Some sentences are too lengthy, making them difficult to read. For example: "Globally, 1.7 billion people are infected with one or</b></li> </ul>	

more STHs..." could be split into two sentences for clarity.

**9. Imbalance in Focus:**

- While the introduction explains the global burden of malaria and STHs, it could better connect these global trends to the study area (Mkpat Enin). A sentence or two summarizing the local prevalence of malaria and STHs in Nigeria or Akwa Ibom State would strengthen the argument.

**10. Need for Logical Flow:**

- The flow between topics (malaria, STHs, co-infections, study area) could be improved. Start with a general context, then narrow down to co-infections, and finally discuss the study area.

**11. Clarity in Objectives:**

- The last sentence mentions "prevalence and interactions" but does not explain what specific interactions (e.g., clinical, immunological, or epidemiological) will be explored. Be more explicit about the research objectives.

**12. Outdated STH Data:**

- Data on STH prevalence is cited from a 2003 survey, which may seem outdated. If recent data is unavailable, explain why older figures are referenced and emphasize the need for updated studies.

Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.

**13. Avoid Assumptions Without Evidence:**

- The statement, "helminths can influence malaria severity by either mitigating or exacerbating its clinical manifestations," is strong but lacks immediate supporting evidence or examples. Provide a brief explanation or citation.

**Methods and Materials**

• **Inconsistencies in Writing Style:**

- The text switches between technical and informal language. For example, "children aged 4-15 years who consent to parent/guardian consent" should be revised for clarity. Suggested edit:
  - "Children aged 4–15 years whose parents/guardians provided informed consent were included in the study."

• **Sampling Technique Details:**

- While the sampling technique is mentioned, it could be more explicitly described:
  - Clarify how the four schools were randomly selected.
  - Provide justification for the use of paper balloting as a randomization method.

“Participants were selected through simple paper balloting, where students picked slips marked ‘YES’ or ‘NO’; those who picked ‘YES’ were included in the study.”

This text closely resembles content from the article by Abu Bonsra, E., Amankwah Osei, P., Adjei Kyeremeh, E., et al. (2025). Factors associated with malaria in pregnancy among women attending ANC clinics in selected districts of the Ashanti Region, Ghana.

*Malaria Journal*, 24(8). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-025-05244-6>

Ensuring proper attribution will uphold the credibility and originality of your work.

• **More on Quality Control:**

- Add details about quality control measures for

	<p>microscopy (e.g., if slides were cross-checked by another expert or laboratory technician).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Age Range and Sample Size Distribution:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The inclusion criteria mention children aged 4–15, but it would be helpful to provide the age distribution of participants in each school.</li></ul></li><li>- <b>Stool Sample Preservation Clarification:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State the duration between stool collection and analysis to ensure readers understand the preservation protocol’s effectiveness.</li></ul></li><li>- <b>Correlation Test Applicability:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure Pearson’s correlation is the most appropriate test. If variables are categorical, Spearman’s rank correlation or logistic regression might be more suitable</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Upon reviewing the Consent and Ethical Consideration sections of your manuscript, I have a few recommendations to enhance clarity and ensure comprehensive ethical reporting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Consent Section:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Consider expanding on the informed consent process by providing more details about how the parents/guardians were informed about the study, including the purpose, procedures, and potential risks.</li><li>○ It would be helpful to mention that the consent form included information about voluntary participation, the option to withdraw at any time without penalty, and confidentiality assurances.</li><li>○ Please clarify that the consent forms were securely stored and preserved by the authors for record-keeping.</li></ul></li><li>2. <b>Ethical Consideration Section:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It would be beneficial to expand the ethical approval section by emphasizing the role of the Ethical Committee in reviewing and approving the study’s design, sample</li></ul></li></ol>	
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	<p>collection methods, and data handling procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Adding more information about how the study adhered to ethical guidelines for human subject research, and how participants' rights and safety were protected, would strengthen this section.</li><li>○ You may also want to include details about the assent process for children, particularly how they were provided with age-appropriate information and consented to participate alongside their parents/guardians.</li></ul> <p><b>Suggested Expansion:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Consent Section:</b> You may want to elaborate on the written informed consent obtained from parents/guardians. This could include information about the study's objectives, voluntary nature of participation, confidentiality, and the option for participants to withdraw at any time without consequences. Please also mention how the consent forms were stored and preserved.</li><li>2. <b>Ethical Consideration Section:</b> Consider expanding this section by providing more details on the ethical review process and how participants' rights were ensured. This could include assurances about data protection, the minimal risk to participants, and the voluntary nature of participation. It would also be valuable to mention that children were given the opportunity to assent to participate, ensuring they understood their involvement.</li></ol>	
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Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.		
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.		
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		

**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

**Reviewer Details:**

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