

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	ANTIMALARIAL SELF-MEDICATION AMONG ADULTS DURING THE COVID-19 NATIONAL LOCKDOWN IN NORTHERN UGANDA: IMPLICATIONS FOR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
Type	Oral Presentation <i>What can we learn from your Primary Health Care Practice and Experiences?</i>
1st Author	PHILEMON OJOK EGER
Co-Authors	Alimah Komuhangi, Jonathan Izudi
Country	UGANDA
Abstract N ^o	TUFH719
Content	<p>Background: Empiric evidence suggests that antimalarial self-medication has worsened during the COVID-19 national lockdown but data are scarce. We report the prevalence and factors associated with antimalarial self-medication among adults during the COVID-19 national lockdown in Lira district, northern Uganda. Methods: Analytic community-based cross-sectional study involved adults aged ≥ 18 years. We collected data using a structured questionnaire, the outcome was antimalarial medication measured by self-report. Data were descriptively summarized and differences in the study outcome were compared using the chi-square test. Factors independently associated with antimalarial self-medication were determined using logistic regression and reported as adjusted odds ratios (aORs) with a 95% confidence interval (CI). Results: Of 315 participants, we found 80.6% prevalence of antimalarial self-medication, Artemether-lumefantrine use at 62.5%. Antimalarial self-medication was associated with the age category 45-64 years (aOR, 3.10; 95% CI, 1.29-7.44), secondary level of education (aOR, 3.30; 95% CI: 1.11-9.85), > 1hour waiting time at a health facility (aOR, 9.10; 95% CI, 4.15-19.94), ≥ 5 km travel distance to a health facility (aOR, 2.05; 95% CI:1.14-3.69), and unawareness on the dangers of self-medication (aOR, 4.69; 95% CI, 2.06-10.70). Conclusion: The prevalence of antimalarial self-medication was high in northern Uganda during the national lockdown and has the potential to worsen antimicrobial resistance. Health education messages about the dangers of self-medication targeting the entire population and improved access to health facilities should be enforced by the healthcare system.</p>