

## Correspondence

### Neurological sequelae in pediatric cerebral malaria: The Indian perspective

Sir,

I read an interesting case report entitled, “Expressive aphasia: An isolated and reversible complication of cerebral malaria in a child” published in June 2012 issue of our esteemed journal (*J Vector Borne Dis* 49(2); p. 117–8) by Maini and colleagues. It is worth appreciation as authors have pointed out that “there is paucity of literature on post-cerebral malaria expressive aphasia in children from Indian subcontinent and neurological deficits are known to be higher in children than adults, in cerebral malaria. There is a need to create Indian epidemiological database of aphasia and other neurological deficits due to cerebral malaria, especially in children”.

With acknowledging the efforts made by the authors I would like to share my views:

- (1) The efforts and suggestions made by the authors should be carried forward as India is witnessing large number of malaria patients for last two decades. From all around the world there are reports of neurological sequelae in children from malaria but such data are lacking from India as authors have pointed out. There are large studies on adult malaria from India<sup>1</sup>, but no data on children.
- (2) Besides sequelae in survivors of cerebral malaria there are also neurological manifestations in malaria patients without loss of consciousness as a presenting illness<sup>2</sup>.
- (3) Many of Indian states have become endemic for malaria. The pediatric population and pregnant women are more vulnerable for malaria and its complications.
- (4) There is also change in clinical profile of malaria with time which should also be kept in mind<sup>3,4</sup>.
- (5) The clinical database should have been available by now but “better late than never”, if this thing is looked into now it will be beneficial to millions of Indian children and neighbours, and can save the unnecessary expenses of extensive evaluation of such patients in third world countries.

## REFERENCES

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## AUTHOR’S REPLY

We thank Dr Shubakaran for his views. Even *Plasmodium vivax* is being reported now to cause malignant manifestations<sup>1</sup>. Malaria is a reportable disease but malarial complications are also significant for designing healthcare facility in rehabilitation phase. We agree with Dr Shubhakaran’s views.

## REFERENCE

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