PART D

Introduction to Infectious Diseases

Community Level Care for Malaria in Areas where Malaria is endemic

Objectives of the session

By the end of the session, the ASHA will learn about:

- Understand and be able to communicate key facts about malaria and its prevention.
- Making a blood smear and testing blood using a rapid diagnostic test for malaria.
- Managing fever in the young child- when to suspect malaria, how and when to test, when to refer, when and what to treat.
- Understanding spread of TB and methods of diagnosis.
- Supporting treatment of TB and follow-up with patients.

Malaria

Malaria is an infection caused by parasite (microorganism) called Plasmodium. This is transmitted by the female anopheles mosquito. There are two types of malaria: Vivax and Falciparum. Vivax is not very dangerous but falciparum malaria can cause damage to the brain, liver and lungs.

How does it spread?: When the mosquito bits an infected person, the parasite enters the mosquito's stomach. It multiplies in the insect's stomach and then when it bites another person, the parasite enters the blood of the person along with the insect's saliva and infects him/her .

Signs and Symptoms

- The patient can have fever, high shivering and sweating, which can occur on alternate days (in Vivax type of malaria) and every day at a certain time with Falciparum type infection.
- Sometimes the patient has continuous fever, malaise, and headache.
- Malaria affects more frequently and more severely children below five years, pregnant women, or patients who are already ill.
- Falciparum malaria can affect the brain: causing clouding of consciousness, fits, or paralysis leading to death.