Letter to the Editor

Neural tube defects and malaria

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Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Clinical profile of neural tube defects in Sudanese children: Is malaria a risk factor?” with a great interest [1]. Sadik et al. [1] mentioned that “Anti-malaria Sulfadoxine/Pyrimethamine (Fansidar®) used by most in our cohort is an anti-folate drug and could be implicated in the aetiology.” We would like to share ideas and experience on this issue. In our setting, in tropical Indochina, the similar high prevalence of malaria exists and there is a wide use of the anti-malarial drugs. Nevertheless, there is no problem and there is no report on malaria related neural tube defect. According to the study on the congenital malaria cases [2], it is evident that there is no abnormal neural tube defect despite there is a clear data on prenatal exposure to anti-malarial drugs. Indeed, the folate deficiency is a common problem among pregnant mothers in tropical developing countries and this should be an explanation for neural tube defect.

REFERENCES

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Received: 22 December 2017 | Accepted: 06 May 2018

How to cite this article:

Joob B, Wiwanitkit V. Neural tube defects and malaria. Sudan J Paediatr. 2018;18(1):84. <https://doi.org/10.24911/SJP.2018.1.13>