

The Quality of Life and Long-Term Socio-Economic Impact of Typhoid Fever Complications in Africa: A Multi-Country Study

Vittal Mogasale¹, Enusa Ramani¹, SETA Health Economics Team^{2,3,4}, Florian Marks²

¹*Policy and Economic Research Department, International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, S. Korea;* ²*Epidemiology Department, International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, S. Korea;* ³*Data Management Department, International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, S. Korea;* ⁴*PIs and Study Coordinators in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and Madagascar*

Background: The long-term impact of typhoid fever complications on quality of life (QoL) and socio-economic aspects have never been studied. Based on what is known about typhoid fever epidemiology, clinical outcomes and incidence of complications, the illness is expected to affect individuals and family for long duration. As a part of the Severe Typhoid Fever in Africa (SETA) project, we present study design, methodology and updates on QoL and long-term socio-economic impact measurement of typhoid fever complications in four African countries. This study will help in understanding broader socio-economic and intangible impact of typhoid fever complications on affected families and on society.

Methods: This study aims to measure implications of illness on QoL of individuals; social, emotional and financial burden on affected families over one year period after blood culture confirmation of typhoid fever compared to matched healthy neighborhood controls. Both cases and controls are interviewed face-to-face, serially 7-8 times over one year period using three predeveloped, validated and structured questionnaires. The QoL will be tracked starting from the day of SETA enrollment (0 day), immediately after blood culture results are available for cases (3-7 days), two weeks after enrollment (12-14 days), at around one month (28 days) and every three months thereafter (90, 180, 270, 360 days). Two other questionnaires, one for measuring financial burden and another for measuring caretaker burden will be administered along with the QoL questionnaire seven times starting from the second interview.

Results: The overview, updates and initial results will be presented six months after the study commencement in four African countries. This will include descriptive data on study participants and deliberation of analytical methods.

Conclusions: The QoL and socio-economic burden of typhoid fever and complications may help to appreciate better the social needs and equity aspects of typhoid fever control from policy perspectives.