CLINICAL INSIGHTS

EXCEL Division of Blue Cross Laboratories

AZIBEST SUSPENSION ***Issue II, No.2, 2025***

Azithromycin to Reduce Mortality — An Adaptive Cluster-Randomized Trial

Kieran S. O'Brien, et al. N Engl J Med 2024; August 21, 2024;391:699-709

- Twice-yearly mass distribution of azithromycin to children is a promising intervention to reduce childhood mortality.
- 1229 children (1- 59 months) & 773 infant (1-11 months) were randomly assigned to the child azithromycin group and 954 to the placebo group.
- Children assigned to Azithromycin group were offered single-dose treatment twice yearly for 3 years (6 distributions) from August 2019 to February 2023.
- Lower mortality among children 1 to 59 months of age was observed in the child azithromycin group (11.9 deaths per 1000 person-years ;) than in the placebo group (13.9 deaths per 1000 person-years ;) representing 14% lower mortality with azithromycin; P<0.001).

Azithromycin distributions to children 1 to 59 months of age significantly reduced mortality in developing regions.

❖❖❖❖❖❖