



## Impact of oral azithromycin and intermittent preventive treatment with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine regimen on child mortality in Sierra Leone: trial protocol for a randomised, two-arm, double-blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial (ICARIA).

BMC; Owusu-kyei K et.al; (2024) 25:626

- Azithromycin has been shown to be beneficial in preventing infectious diseases, including malaria, infectious diarrhea and pneumonia.
- The aim of this trial is to evaluate the impact on all-cause mortality in children up to eighteen months old who live in high-mortality areas of Sierra Leone of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) and intermittent preventive treatment in infants (IPTi), which the World Health Organization recently renamed as perennial malaria chemoprevention (PMC).
- In a phase III two-arm, individually randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, the dosage of PMC-SP is administered as an oral dispersible tablet (250 mg/12.5 mg) based on body weight.
- According to data from recent studies on the mass drug administration (MDA) of Azithromycin for the prevention of trachoma in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), administering Azithromycin to children at certain intervals during their first two years of life may be an effective way to lower infant mortality.

**Azithromycin is linked to a considerable decrease in childhood mortality when administered in mass drug administration (MDA) for trachoma elimination in SSA areas.**

