



PRESS STATEMENT

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MALARIA: TESTING TREATED PLASTIC SHEETS FOR PNG

Insecticide treated plastic sheeting (ITPS) is a new malaria control intervention recently trialled in Papua New Guinea.

ITPS is a wall covering that kills indoor resting mosquitoes, a function very similar to indoor residual spraying (IRS), but unlike the six to 12 month lifespan of the spray, the sheets remain effective for three to five years.

Researchers at the PNG Institute of Medical Research conducted a feasibility and acceptability study of ITPS early in 2012.

“The aim of this study was to investigate whether it was possible to hang the insecticide treated sheets in a range of homes across PNG and whether, once hung, householders liked it,” said Brown Kaupa, an IMR Scientific Officer attached to the study.

The sheets were installed in 40 homes (10 per site) in four distinct settings across PNG in Eastern Highlands, Madang and New Ireland Provinces. These homes ranged from modern low cost housing to various styles of traditional dwellings.

“The study findings suggest that ITPS installation is feasible in a range of different housing styles in PNG and is acceptable to householders,” Mr Kaupa said.

“However, the installation process was time consuming and a number of householders were concerned about the durability of the ITPS product. Further trials are needed before insecticide treated plastic sheets could be considered for use on a wider scale,” he said.

This study was funded by IMR’s Internal Competitive Research Award scheme (ICRAS), a scheme that is set up by the Institute with support from the Government of PNG to train and improve the capacity building of national scientists in scientific research.

Symposium Paper: Feasibility and acceptability of insecticide treated plastic sheeting (ITPS) for vector control in Papua New Guinea.

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