

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplemental Table 1. Associations of admission log(10)-transformed plasma and CSF levels of sST2 with in-hospital outcomes and neurologic deficits in children with CM.

Clinical outcome	Value	n/N ^a	CM plasma		N ^a	CM CSF	
			OR, beta, IRR [95% CI]	P value		OR, beta, IRR [95% CI]	P value
Mortality	OR	29/224	1.56 [0.42, 5.80]	0.51	9/153	3.57 [0.82, 15.62]	0.09
Coma duration ^b	β	195	0.13 [-0.02, 0.29]	0.10	144	0.03 [-0.07, 0.14]	0.55
No. of seizures in hospital	IRR	224	0.67 [0.09, 1.24]	0.02	153	-0.10 [-0.52, 0.33]	0.66
Presence of neurological deficits at:							
Discharge	OR	69/190	0.66 [0.25, 1.73]	0.40	57/143	1.11 [0.56, 2.20]	0.76
6-month follow-up	OR	10/186	3.27 [0.37, 28.56]	0.28	8/139	1.66 [0.38, 7.35]	0.50
12-month follow-up	OR	7/185	8.28 [0.56, 123.0]	0.13	5/139	2.31 [0.35, 15.35]	0.29
24-month follow-up	OR	6/183	16.80 [0.82, 344.93]	0.07	4/137	2.31 [0.28, 19.0]	0.44

Corrected for multiple comparisons using Bonferroni correction, $P < 0.017$ for clinical outcome markers and $P < 0.013$ for presence of neurological deficits.

^an/N for dichotomous outcomes (mortality and presence of neurological deficits) denotes number of children who died (mortality) or had neurological deficits (n) at each time point, over the total number of children tested/evaluated at that time point (N)

^bComa duration log-transformed (base 10)

Abbreviations: CM, cerebral malaria; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; OR, odds ratio; IRR, incidence rate ratio; CI, confidence interval.

Supplemental Table 2. Plasma and CSF sST2 concentration associations with cognitive outcomes in children with cerebral malaria (CM) and severe malarial anemia (SMA).

CSF sST2 levels compared to cognitive outcomes in children with CM						
	N(obs), n^a	Unadjusted beta [95% CI]	Unadjusted P value	N(obs), n^a	Adjusted beta^c [95% CI]	Adjusted P value
<5 years at CM episode						
Overall Cognition	336, 114	0.15 [-0.49, 0.79]	0.65	334, 112	0.00 [-0.66, 0.66]	1.00
Attention	355, 114	0.16 [-0.18, 0.50]	0.35	353, 112	0.03 [-0.33, 0.39]	0.88
Associative Memory	355, 115	0.07 [-0.14, 0.28]	0.49	353, 113	-0.03 [-0.25, 0.19]	0.76
<5 years at CM episode; ≥5 years at time of testing						
Overall Cognition	77, 57	0.93 [0.02, 1.83]	0.04	77, 57	0.41 [-0.43, 1.24]	0.33
Attention	79, 57	0.69 [-0.28, 1.65]	0.16	79, 57	-0.01 [-0.92, 0.90]	0.99
Working Memory	79, 57	0.98 [-0.15, 2.11]	0.09	79, 57	0.38 [-0.71, 1.47]	0.49
≥5 years at time of CM episode						
Overall Cognition	111, 29	-1.68 [-3.03, -0.33]	0.02	107, 28	-1.38 [-3.15, 0.39]	0.12
Attention	111, 29	-0.20 [-1.07, 0.66]	0.63	107, 28	0.14 [-0.86, 1.15]	0.77
Working Memory	112, 29	-0.89 [-1.90, 0.12]	0.08	108, 28	-0.52 [-1.72, 0.68]	0.37
Plasma sST2 levels compared to cognitive outcomes in children with CM						
<5 years at CM episode						
Overall Cognition	423, 143	0.08 [-0.80, 0.95]	0.86	421, 141	-0.13 [-0.95, 0.68]	0.75
Attention	443, 144	0.15 [-0.30, 0.59]	0.51	441, 142	0.05 [-0.41, 0.51]	0.84
Associative Memory	440, 144	-0.01 [-0.30, 0.29]	0.97	438, 142	-0.03 [-0.33, 0.26]	0.82
<5 years at CM episode; ≥5 years at time of testing						
Overall Cognition	105, 76	-0.28 [-1.62, 1.05]	0.67	105, 76	-0.32 [-1.42, 0.77]	0.56
Attention	106, 76	-0.66 [-1.75, 0.43]	0.23	106, 76	-0.82 [-1.78, 0.14]	0.09
Working Memory	106, 76	-0.38 [-1.69, 0.93]	0.57	106, 76	-0.59 [-1.84, 0.66]	0.35
≥5 years at time of CM episode						
Overall Cognition	188, 49	-2.55 [-4.47, -0.62]	0.01	179, 46	-2.84 [-4.81, -0.87]	0.01
Attention	186, 49	-1.35 [-2.77, 0.07]	0.06	177, 46	-1.82 [-3.38, -0.27]	0.02
Working Memory	189, 49	-0.75 [-2.29, 0.78]	0.33	180, 46	-0.81 [-2.42, 0.80]	0.32
Plasma sST2 levels compared to cognitive outcomes in children with SMA						
<5 years at SMA episode						
Overall Cognition	473, 156	0.11 [-0.57, 0.80]	0.75	464, 153	0.08 [-0.57, 0.73]	0.81
Attention	509, 157	-0.06 [-0.42, 0.30]	0.75	500, 154	-0.02 [-0.40, 0.35]	0.90
Associative Memory	489, 154	-0.05 [-0.35, 0.25]	0.73	480, 151	0.04 [-0.27, 0.35]	0.80

<5 years at SMA episode; ≥5 years at time of testing

Overall Cognition	78, 50	-0.57 [-2.00, 0.86]	0.43	78, 50	-0.58 [-1.84, 0.68]	0.36
Attention	81, 53	0.06 [-1.26, 1.38]	0.93	81, 53	0.33 [-1.16, 1.81]	0.66
Working Memory	81, 53	-0.55 [-1.74, 0.63]	0.35	81, 53	-0.60 [-1.81, 0.61]	0.32

≥5 years at time of SMA episode

Overall Cognition	128, 34	-1.02 [-3.21, 1.18]	0.35	120, 32	-2.28 [-5.70, 1.15]	0.18
Attention	129, 34	0.33 [-1.26, 1.93]	0.67	122, 32	-0.50 [-3.05, 2.05]	0.69
Working Memory	132, 34	-0.49 [-2.40, 1.42]	0.61	124, 32	-0.68 [-3.94, 2.58]	0.67

Linear mixed effects model. Cognitive testing conducted at discharge, 6, 12, and 24 months. Data are presented as beta coefficient and 95% confidence interval.

^aN(obs) represents number of events; N represents the number of participants. sST2 levels log₁₀ transformed. Decrease number in adjusted model on account of missing data in adjusting variables.

^cModel adjusted for age, sex, height for age z-score, weight for age z-score, plasma levels of HRP2, and preschool education of study participants.

Abbreviations: CM, cerebral malaria; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; SMA, severe malarial anemia; CI, confidence interval.

Supplemental Table 3. Age, sex, neurologic deficits, and cognitive outcome scores in children with CM or SMA who had CSF or plasma sST2 testing performed compared to those who did not.

Cerebral Malaria	sST2 Measured (n=249)	Not in sST2 (n=20)	P value
Age, years, median (IQR)	3.50 [2.52, 4.87]	3.41 [2.58, 4.42]	0.64
Sex, % male (n)	60.6 (151)	40.0 (8)	0.07
Z-score for cognitive outcome at 12 months			
Under 5 years tests			
Overall cognition	-0.86 [-2.17, 0.12] (119)	-1.26 [-2.01, -0.42] (12)	0.68
Attention	-0.50 [-1.29, 0.20] (124)	-0.03 [-0.58, 0.55] (12)	0.20
Associative memory	-0.46 [-0.80, -0.04] (122)	-0.42 [-0.87, -0.17] (12)	0.94
Over 5 years tests			
Overall cognition	-0.22 [-1.89, 1.03] (83)	3.96 [2.06, 4.22] (3)	0.01
Attention	0.19 [-0.84, 1.16] (83)	0.36 [0.20, 1.43] (3)	0.46
Working memory	-0.24 [-1.25, 0.75] (83)	0.63 [0.26, 1.38] (3)	0.16
Z-score for cognitive outcome at 24 months			
Under 5 years tests			
Overall cognition	-1.05 [-2.23, 0.21] (68)	-0.11 [-1.42, -0.02] (5)	0.60
Attention	-0.49 [-1.13, 0.18] (68)	-0.22 [-0.31, 0.00] (5)	0.65
Associative memory	-0.81 [-1.10, -0.25] (69)	-0.84 [-0.91, -0.63] (5)	0.75
Over 5 years tests			
Overall cognition	-0.71 [-1.99, 0.42] (136)	-0.29 [-0.60, 1.17] (10)	0.12
Attention	0.03 [-0.90, 0.78] (138)	0.48 [-0.14, 1.10] (10)	0.18
Working memory	-0.28 [-1.42, 0.80] (138)	-0.45 [-0.75, 0.72] (10)	0.75
Percent of neurological deficits at:			
Discharge	36.6% (78/213)	29.4 (5/17)	0.55
6-month follow-up	5.3% (11/209)	0% (0/14)	0.38
12-month follow-up	3.4% (7/208)	0% (0/15)	0.47
24-month follow-up	2.9% (6/205)	0% (0/15)	0.50
Severe Malarial Anemia			
sST2 Measured (n=193)			
Not in sST2 (n=39)			
P value			
Age, years, median (IQR)	2.79 [2.04, 4.35]	2.96 [2.16, 4.53]	0.91
Sex, % male (n)	60.1 (116)	61.5 (24)	0.87
Z-score for cognitive outcome at 12 months			
Under 5 years tests			
Overall cognition	-1.25 [-2.20, -0.03] (117)	-1.32 [-2.31, -0.47] (23)	0.64
Attention	-0.10 [-0.95, 0.45] (125)	-0.25 [-0.80, 0.47] (23)	0.74
Associative memory	-0.24 [-0.57, 0.33] (120)	-0.43 [-0.76, 0.17] (23)	0.13
Over 5 years tests			
Overall cognition	-0.24 [-0.98, 1.26] (52)	0.19 [-0.96, 0.94] (10)	0.70
Attention	0.23 [-1.04, 0.79] (54)	0.87 [-0.21, 2.24] (11)	0.29
Working memory	-0.39 [-1.53, 0.58] (54)	-0.04 [-1.37, 0.82] (10)	0.51

Z-score for cognitive outcome at 24 months

Under 5 years tests

Overall cognition	-1.12 [-2.36, 0.14] (90)	-1.60 [-2.86, -1.03] (15)	0.14
Attention	-0.53 [-1.22, 0.06] (93)	-0.51 [-1.05, 0.03] (15)	0.75
Associative memory	-0.72 [-1.04, -0.12] (92)	-0.96 [-1.08, -0.22] (15)	0.19

Over 5 years tests

Overall cognition	-0.20 [-1.40, 0.38] (81)	-0.31 [-1.49, 1.18] (18)	0.62
Attention	0.01 [-0.97, 0.63] (83)	0.66 [-0.95, 1.73] (18)	0.23
Working memory	-0.64 [-1.34, 0.04] (84)	-0.17 [-1.00, 0.91] (18)	0.26

For continuous variables, data presented as median [IQR] (n). Wilcoxon rank sum test used to compare age and z-scores for cognitive outcomes between children with CM or SMA who had sST2 levels measured in plasma or CSF. Chi-squared test used to compare sex and presence of neurological deficits.

Abbreviations: CM, cerebral malaria; SMA, severe malarial anemia; IQR, interquartile range.