indistinguishable from those of neonatal sepsis. It has been suggested that screening for malaria parasites be included as part of routine investigation in neonates with fever [12,13]. Sometimes, a high index of suspicion for malaria in the neonate is necessary to make quick diagnosis and initiate prompt management, in order to reduce

make the thin film the micropipette was adjusted to drop 4 µl of blood at the other side of the slide; a spreader slide held at angle of 45 degrees towards the blood was used to push the blood smoothly and rapidly. Thereafter, the slides were allowed to air dry completely. Within one hour, the dried slides were transported in the slide box to the laboratory. The microscopist stained and read the slides with the researchers present in the whole process. The thin film was fixed with 100% methanol and allowed to dry. Three percent stock solution of Giemsa stain was used in staining both the thick and thin film. After staining, the slides were washed with buffered distilled water and allowed to air dry. This was followed by reading the slides under the microscope at x 100 oil immersion magnification. A thick film was said to be malaria parasite negative or positive after examination of a 100 high power fields. Parasite density was recorded as a ratio of parasites to white blood cells (WBC) in thick films. White blood cells were

Knowledge of IPT (n=430)	Yes	364	85
	No	66	15

Birth weight (n=19)	< 1.5 kg	1 (5.26)	-	2.012
	1.5 to <2.5 kg	2 (10.5)	1 (5.26)	0.366
	2.5 to <4.0 kg	14 (73.7)	1 (5.26)	
	≥ 4.0 kg	-	-	

Table 2: Relationship between malaria parasite density with some newborn parameters.

Table 3 shows the logistic regression analysis of malaria density in neonates and some maternal-newborn parameters. Neonates of mothers that received antimalarials in pregnancy were about 1.6 times more likely to have higher density of malaria parasite compared to those whose mothers did not take antimalarial in pregnancy [OR 1.556 (95% CI 0.318-7.608)]. Similarly, newborns of mothers with fever in

screening of every newborn with symptoms admitted in the neonatal