

Of the 88 eligible study participants enrolled, most were from the male and adult age groups, with a proportion of 61.4% and 63.6%, respectively. The study participants' mean age was 19.8 years. Seventy-four (84.1%) of those enrolled in the study had an axillary temperature of  $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with a mean of  $38.34^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The rest, 14 (15.9%), had a history of fever within the previous 24 hours. The geometric mean of asexual parasitaemia was 7,402/ $\mu\text{l}$ , and the number of study participants with gametocytes was 6 (6.8%). The level of mean Hgb was 13.86 mg/dl.

The most common symptom manifested in all the study participants was chills. Other common signs and symptoms were headache, fatigue, nausea and anorexia, which manifested in 78 (88.6%), 77 (87.5%), 71 (80.7%) and 62 (70.5%) of the enrolled patients, respectively. The other signs and symptoms were sweating, joint pain and vomiting, which manifested in 48 (54.5%), 47 (53.4%) and 35 (39.8%) of the enrolled patients, respectively.

**Table** Baseline characteristics of the study participants at Teda, Gondar Northwest Ethiopia 2022/23

Characteristics	Age group			
	(0-5)	[5 to 15)	$\geq 15$	Total
Mean age (SD)	3 (0.8)	10.8 (2.8)	25.5 (11.5)	19.8 (12.1)
Sex				
Male n (%)	1 (25)	20 (71.4)	33 (58.9)	54 (61.4)
Female n (%)	3 (75)	8 (28.6)	23 (41.1)	34 (38.6)
Weight (kg) mean (SD)	13 (0.8)	31.2 (9.0)	59.1 (12.2)	48.1 (18.5)
Height (cm) mean (SD)	92.3 (7.8)	132.9 (17.4)	164.5 (8.9)	152 (22.9)
Mean T $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (SD)	37.8 (0.8)	38.3 (0.9)	38.1 (0.7)	38.1 (0.8)
Geometric mean	14,904	6,685	7,409	7,402
parasitaemia/ $\mu\text{l}$ (range)	(4,505-42,275)	(2,352-39,480)	(1,213-96,661)	(1,213-96,661)
Gametocyte n (%)	0	4 (4.5%)	2 (2.3%)	6 (6.8%)
Hgb (g/dl) mean (SD)	12.8 (1.6)	12.9 (1.0)	13.2 (1.3)	13.1 (1.25)

Where: SD= standard deviation, T= temperature