

Hepcidin regulation in Kenyan children with severe malaria and non-typhoidal *Salmonella* bacteremia

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***Salmonella* bacteremia**

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Supplementary Methods

Ethical considerations

Ethical approval was granted by the Scientific Ethics Review Unit of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (protocols KEMRI/SERU/CGMRC-C/155/3857 and KEMRI/SERU/CGMRC/046/3257). Individual written informed consent was provided by parents or guardians of study participants, or with a thumbprint if not literate with a signature from a literate witness.

Sickle cell diagnosis

DNA was extracted retrospectively from frozen samples collected at admission by use of Qiagen DNA blood mini kits (Qiagen, Crawley, UK) and typed for sickle-cell disease by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as previously described.^{1,2}

Iron and inflammatory biomarker assays

We assayed hepcidin (Hepcidin-25 [human] EIA kit; Bachem), soluble transferrin receptor (sTfR; enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; R&D systems), ferritin (micro-particle enzyme immunoassay, IMx [MEIA] ferritin assay, Abbott Laboratories), complete blood count (Beckman Coulter) and C-reactive protein (CRP, Dade Dimension particle enhanced turbidimetric immunoassay; Hitachi Corp.) according to manufacturers guidelines and as previously described.³ Hepcidin/ferritin ratio was calculated by dividing hepcidin (ng/ml) by ferritin (µg/L).

Statistical analyses

To examine factors associated with risk of NTS bacteremia, we used univariable logistic regression models, and a stepwise backward selection approach eliminating factors with $P > 0.1$ after each step and retaining those with $P < 0.05$ in the final multivariable logistic regression models. Variables defined by hemoglobin levels (including severe anemia, SMA, and severe anemia without malaria) were included in separate models for the multivariable analyses. Year of admission was included as a covariate in the final models. Wasting and stunting were dropped out of the final models because of collinearity with underweight. HIV status was not included in the final multivariable models due to many missing values, but remained a significant predictor of NTS bacteraemia in analyses restricted to children with HIV diagnosis (data not shown).

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table S1. Sample selection for the hepcidin sub-study across the years

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
SMA+NTS	1	10	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	16
SMA	4	4	1	0	0	8	3	7	5	0	0	0	1	0	33
NTS	3	5	3	0	1	9	0	2	3	2	1	0	3	1	33
CM	1	0	0	1	1	9	5	0	10	7	0	0	0	0	34

Abbreviations: SMA, severe malarial anemia; NTS, non-typhoidal *Salmonella*; and CM, cerebral malaria.

Supplementary Table S2. Stepwise-selection multivariable logistic regression of factors associated with non-typhoidal *Salmonella* bacteremia in all hospitalized children (n=75,034)

Characteristic ¹	SMA-restricted model		All severe anemia– restricted model		Severe anemia without malaria – restricted model	
	Adj OR (95% CI) ²	Adj P ²	Adj OR (95% CI) ²	Adj P ²	Adj OR (95% CI) ²	Adj P ²
SMA	2.17 (1.44, 3.28)	0.0002				
Severe anaemia (Hb <5 g/dl)			3.15 (2.36, 4.20)	<0.0001		
Severe anemia without malaria					4.03 (2.78, 5.84)	<0.0001
Age, years	0.88 (0.80, 0.97)	0.009	0.87 (0.79, 0.96)	0.004	0.88 (0.80, 0.97)	0.009
Fever (temperature >37.5°C)	1.89 (1.46, 2.45)	<0.0001	1.85 (1.43, 2.39)	<0.0001	1.85 (1.43, 2.39)	<0.0001
Diarrhea ³	1.58 (1.22, 2.03)	0.0004	1.65 (1.28, 2.11)	0.0001	1.54 (1.20, 1.97)	0.0007
Very severe pneumonia ⁴	1.54 (1.12, 2.12)	0.008	1.46 (1.06, 2.01)	0.02	1.53 (1.12, 2.10)	0.008
Underweight ⁵	2.19 (1.74, 2.76)	<0.0001	2.06 (1.64, 2.59)	<0.0001	2.10 (1.67, 2.64)	<0.0001
Sickle cell disease	2.55 (1.33, 4.88)	0.005	1.97 (1.03, 3.78)	0.04		

Abbreviations: OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; SMA, severe malaria anemia. ¹Only factors with P<0.05 in the final models are shown. SMA, severe anaemia, and severe anemia without malaria were included in separate models. ²Adjusted odds ratios and P-values from a stepwise backward selection logistic regression model retaining variables with P<0.1 in each step, and including variables with P<0.05 in the final models. Year of admission was also adjusted in the final models. HIV status was not included in the final multivariable models due to many missing values, but remained a significant predictor of NTS bacteraemia in analyses restricted to children with HIV diagnosis (adj. OR 5.07 [95% CI 3.14, 8.19]; P<0.0001 in the SMA model); ³Passage of three or more loose or liquid stools within 24 hours; ⁴Cough or difficulty breathing plus either prostration, lethargy, hypoxia, loss of consciousness, or a history of convulsions; ⁵Weight-for-age z-score < -2 using WHO Child Growth Standards.

Supplementary Table S3. Demographic and clinical characteristics of children in the hepcidin sub-study with measurements of iron and inflammation

Characteristic	Hospitalized children				Community children ¹	
	SMA and NTS (%)	SMA (%)	NTS (%)	CM (%)	AM (%)	Healthy controls (%)
Age, months (IQR) ²	23.6 (11.4, 31.6)	22.3 (16.6, 30.3)	17.2 (5.5, 28.5)	23.0 (13.6, 36.4)	63.2 (40.1, 77.4)	41.6 (21.7, 64.2)
Sex, male	8/16 (50.0)	15/33 (45.5)	20/33 (60.6)	13/34 (38.2)	27/49 (55.1)	134/242 (55.4)
Fever ³	7/16 (43.8)	21/33 (63.6)	18/32 (56.3)	25/34 (73.5)	3/21 (14.3)	5/88 (5.7)
Hemoglobin	3.2 (2.7, 4.2)	4.0 (3.4, 4.4)	7.3 (6.4, 9.8)	7.5 (5.9, 8.2)	n/a	n/a
Vomiting	7/16 (43.8)	16/33 (18.2)	9/33 (27.2)	10/33 (30.3)	n/a	n/a
Wasting	9/16 (56.3)	8/33 (28.2)	15/32 (45.5)	8/32 (23.5)	n/a	n/a
Stunting	9/16 (56.3)	13/30 (43.3)	14/29 (48.3)	14/31 (45.2)	n/a	n/a
Underweight	7/12 (58.3)	11/32 (34.3)	20/29 (69.0)	16/34 (47.1)	n/a	n/a
Pallor ⁴	5/5 (100)	24/25 (96.0)	10/27 (37.0)	20/33 (60.6)	n/a	n/a
Coma (BCS <3)	0/3 (0)	5/24 (20.8)	1/22 (4.6)	34/34 (100.0)	n/a	n/a
HIV status, positive ⁵	0/1 (0)	2/9 (22.2)	2/9 (18.2)	0/17 (0)	n/a	n/a
Transfused	14/16 (87.5)	19/33 (57.6)	3/33 (9.1)	9/34 (26.5)	n/a	n/a
In-hospital mortality	4/16 (25.0)	3/33 (9.1)	8/33 (24.2)	4/34 (11.8)	n/a	n/a

Abbreviations: SMA, severe malaria anemia; NTS, non-typhoidal *Salmonella*; CM, cerebral malaria; AM, asymptomatic malaria; IQR, interquartile range; BCS, Blantyre coma score; and HIV, human immunodeficiency virus. ¹Only age, gender and axillary temperature data were available for community children. ²Medians and interquartile ranges are presented. ³Temperature >37.5°C. ⁴Pallor was defined clinically. ⁵HIV data was only available for children admitted between 2005-2019.

Supplementary Table S4. Geometric means and linear regression analyses of iron and/or inflammatory biomarkers by hospital groups.

Biomarker	Group	n	Geometric means (95% CI)	Adj β (95% CI)¹	Adj P¹
Log-hepcidin, ng/ml	SMA and NTS	16	11.7 (4.0, 34.5)	Reference	
	SMA	33	21.4 (12.4, 36.8)	0.47 (-0.73, 1.67)	0.44
	NTS	33	48.7 (20.3, 116.4)	1.99 (0.81, 3.26)	0.001
	CM	34	62.9 (37.2, 106.4)	1.52 (0.13, 2.92)	0.03
Log-ferritin, $\mu\text{g/L}$	SMA and NTS	16	287.0 (233.4, 352.9)	Reference	
	SMA	32	329.3 (280.7, 386.4)	0.26 (-0.08, 0.61)	0.14
	NTS	29	268.6 (193.8, 372.3)	0.22 (-0.12, 0.56)	0.20
	CM	28	305.5 (226.8, 411.5)	0.37 (-0.03, 0.77)	0.07
Log-hepcidin/ferritin	SMA and NTS	16	0.04 (0.01, 0.12)	Reference	
	SMA	32	0.07 (0.04, 0.12)	0.15 (-1.04, 1.35)	0.80
	NTS	29	0.18 (0.08, 0.40)	1.56 (0.38, 2.74)	0.01
	CM	28	0.20 (0.11, 0.38)	1.03 (-0.37, 2.43)	0.15
Log-sTfR, mg/L^2	SMA and NTS	16	46.2 (36.5, 58.6)	Reference	
	SMA	33	42.8 (35.7, 51.4)	-0.19 (-0.52, 0.14)	0.25
	NTS	32	40.6 (32.6, 50.4)	-0.23 (-0.55, 0.09)	0.16
	CM	33	33.9 (29.8, 40.0)	-0.40 (-0.78, -0.01)	0.04
Log-CRP, mg/L	SMA and NTS	16	98.4 (72.9, 132.9)	Reference	
	SMA	33	96.7 (76.6, 122.0)	-0.04 (-0.72, 0.63)	0.90
	NTS	30	77.2 (51.7, 115.1)	-0.26 (-0.92, 0.39)	0.43
	CM	33	76.2 (51.6, 112.7)	-0.34 (-1.12, 0.44)	0.39
Log-parasite density, parasites/ μl	SMA and NTS	16	9.1×10^3 (3.0×10^3 , 2.8×10^4)	Reference	
	SMA	33	5.1×10^4 (2.4×10^4 , 1.1×10^4)	1.49 (0.09, 2.90)	0.04
	CM	33	1.9×10^5 (1.1×10^5 , 3.2×10^5)	2.87 (1.12, 4.60)	0.002

Abbreviations: SMA, severe malaria anaemia; NTS, non-typhoidal *Salmonella* bacteremia; sTfR,

soluble transferrin receptors; CRP, and C-reactive protein. ¹Adjusted coefficients (adj β) and P-values

were derived from a linear regression model adjusting for inflammation (log-CRP) and year of

admission; ²Twelve sTfR values were above the upper limit of the assay (>84 mg/L) and were

recorded as 84 mg/L for this analysis. These values were distributed across the groups as follows:

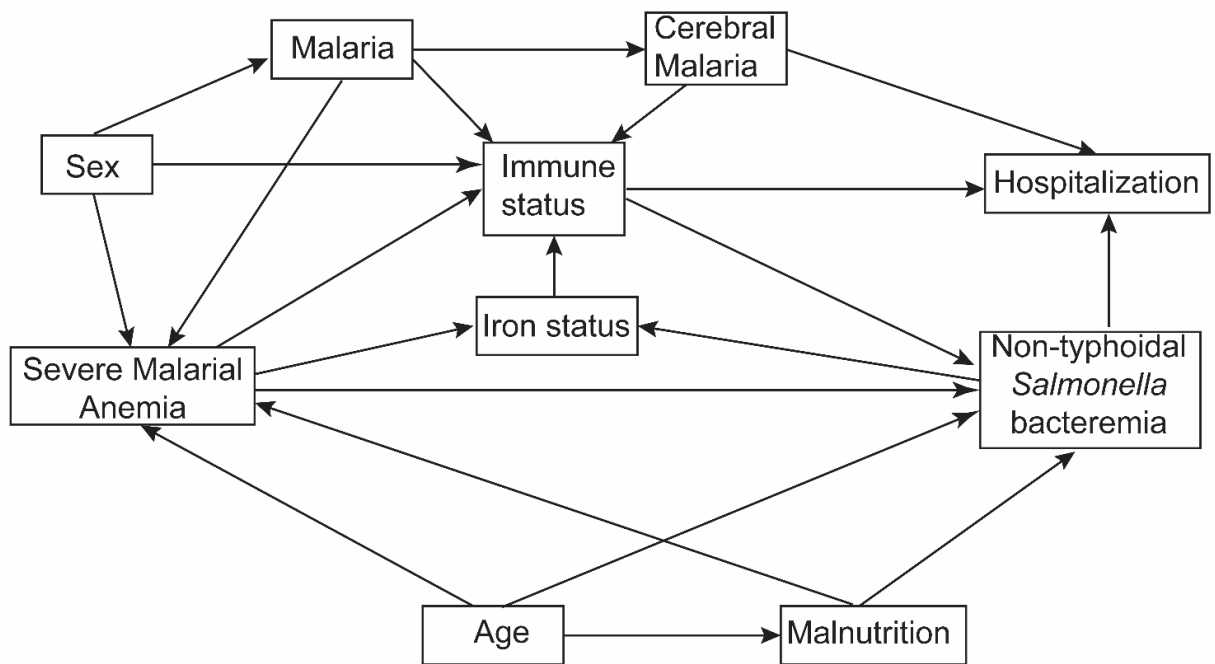
SMA and NTS (2), SMA (5), NTS (2) and CM (3).

Supplementary Table S5. Correlation of hepcidin with iron and inflammatory biomarkers in hospitalized children

Variable	All groups		SMA and NTS		SMA		NTS		CM	
	r	P	r	P	r	P	r	P	r	P
Ferritin, µg/L	0.38	<0.0001	0.10	0.69	0.37	0.04	0.58	0.001	0.21	0.28
sTfR, mg/L ¹	-0.37	<0.0001	-0.08	0.77	-0.43	0.01	-0.34	0.06	-0.21	0.24
CRP, mg/L	0.31	0.0007	0.24	0.37	0.63	0.0001	0.44	0.01	0.02	0.91
Hemoglobin, g/dL	0.37	<0.0001	0.32	0.23	0.28	0.11	-0.07	0.70	0.20	0.25
Parasite density, parasites/µl	0.44	<0.0001	-0.08	0.77	0.53	0.001			0.29	0.09

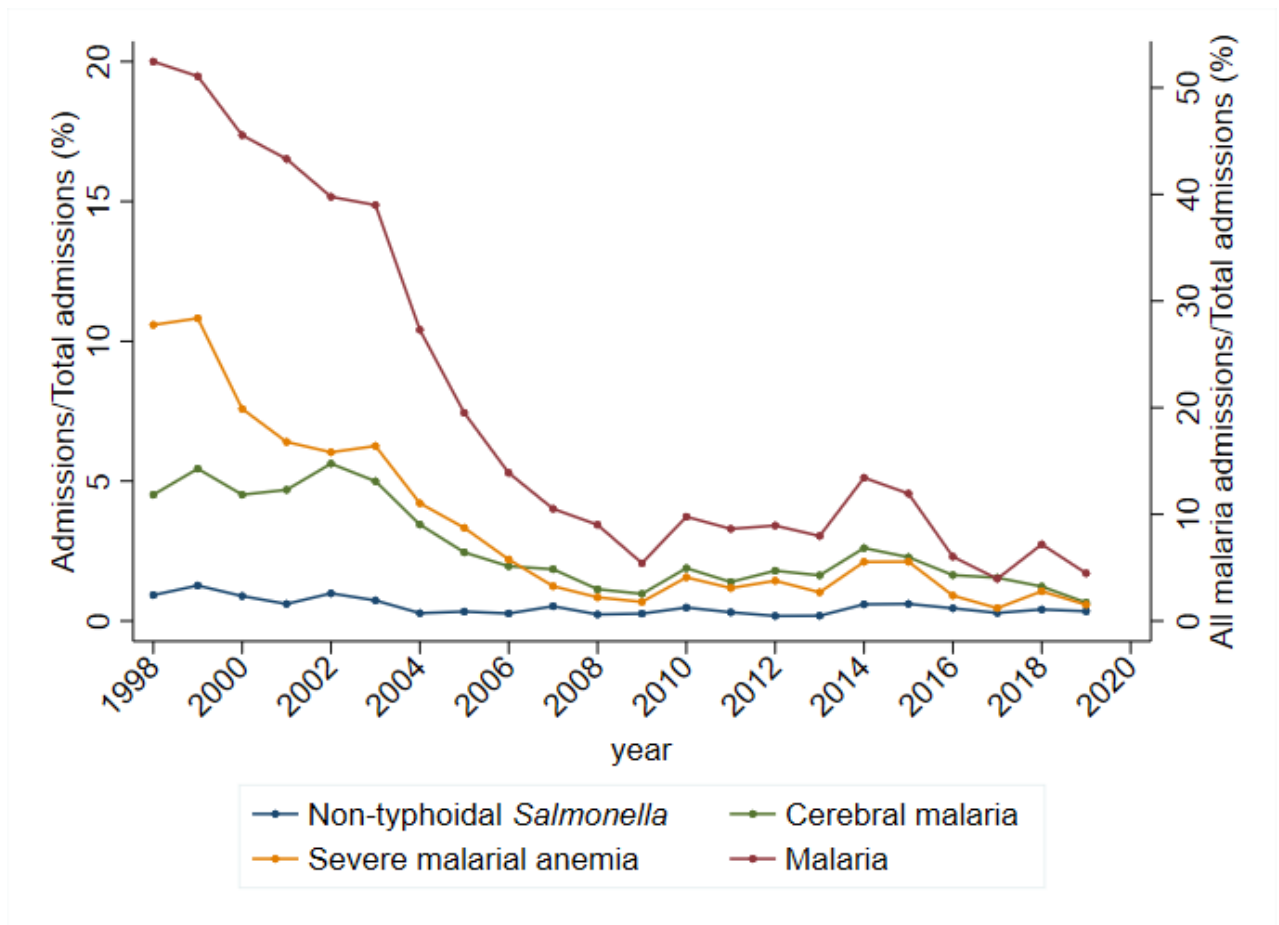
Abbreviations: SMA, severe malaria anemia; NTS, non-typhoidal *Salmonella* bacteremia; CM, cerebral malaria; sTfR, soluble transferrin receptors; CRP, C-reactive protein; and r, pairwise non-parametric Spearman's correlation coefficients. ¹Twelve sTfR values were above the upper limit of the assay (>84 mg/L) and were recorded as 84 mg/L for this analysis. These values were distributed across the groups as follows: SMA and NTS (2), SMA (5), NTS (2) and CM (3).

Supplementary Figure S1



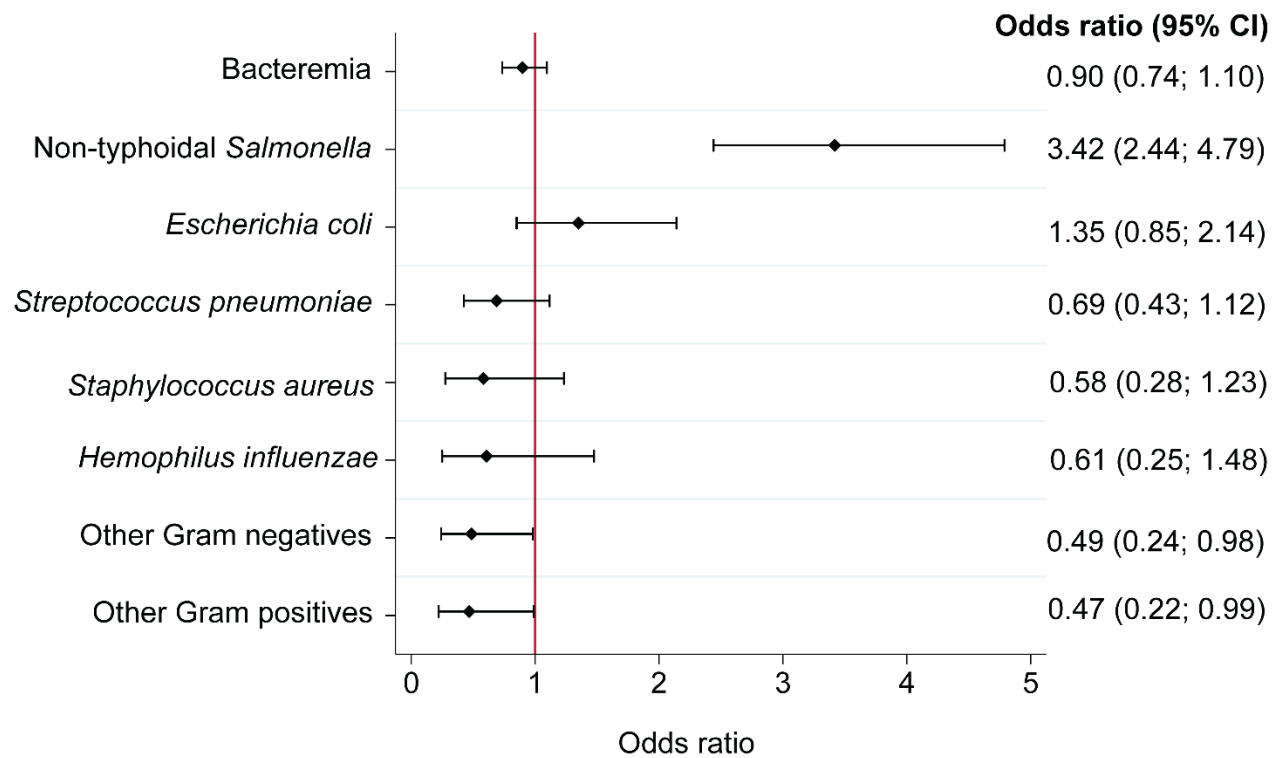
Supplementary Figure S1. Directed acyclic graph for the causal pathways between malaria and non-typhoidal *Salmonella*.

Supplementary Figure S2



Supplementary Figure S2. Proportions of admissions (in percentage) due to non-typhoidal *Salmonella*, malaria, cerebral malaria, and severe malarial anaemia between August 1998 and October 2019.

Supplementary Figure S3



Supplementary Figure S3. Forest plot showing association between SMA and the risk of various organisms causing bacteraemia in hospitalized children. Odds ratios were derived from univariable logistic regression models (n=75,034).

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