

Supplementary Table S1. Questionnaire on maternal knowledge and practices regarding childhood fever

Section	Question / Item	Response Options
A. Demographics	Participant ID*	
	Age (months for children <24 months; years for older children)	Open-ended (years/months)
	Sex	Female / Male
	Birth order	First / Second / Third / Fourth or higher
	Birth weight (grams)	Open-ended
	Number of siblings	Open-ended
	Ages of siblings (years)	Open-ended
	Mother's age (years)	Open-ended
	Father's age (years)	Open-ended
	Mother's educational level	No formal education / Primary education / Secondary education / High school / University degree/ Doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent)
	Father's educational level	No formal education / Primary education / Secondary education / High school / University degree/ Doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent)
	Family history of preterm birth	Yes / No
	Family history of epilepsy or seizure disorders	Yes / No
	Family history of febrile convulsions	Yes / No
	Family history of pediatric chronic diseases (if yes, specify)	Yes / No
B. Fever History and Equipment	Has your child ever had a fever before?	Yes / No
	Availability of a thermometer at home	Yes / No
	Type of thermometer (Multiple answers allowed)	Digital (axillary/oral/rectal)/ Ear (tympanic) / Forehead (infrared, non-contact)/ Mercury / Other (please specify)
	Availability of antipyretics at home	Yes / No
	Antipyretic formulation used (Multiple answers allowed)	Oral (liquid)/ Oral (tablet /capsule)/ Rectal (suppository)
	Active ingredient of antipyretic (Multiple answers allowed)	Paracetamol (acetaminophen)/ Ibuprofen / Other (please specify)
C. Fever Management Practices	What dose of antipyretic do you administer when your child has a fever? (mg or mL, as reported by caregiver)	Open-ended
	How often do you repeat the antipyretic dose?	Open-ended (hours)
	Have you ever used alternating or combined antipyretics?†	Yes / No
	Do you wake your child from sleep to measure body temperature?	Yes / No

*Each questionnaire was labeled with a unique participant identification code assigned by the research team; participants were not asked to provide any personal identifiers.

† *Alternating antipyretics*: The use of two different antipyretic agents (e.g., paracetamol and ibuprofen) administered alternately at different dosing intervals.

Combined antipyretics: The use of two different antipyretic agents administered together or within a short time interval during the same febrile episode.

‡ *Home observation*: Monitoring the child at home without immediate medical consultation, while observing general condition and symptoms. *Reducing clothing layers*: Removing excess clothing to facilitate heat loss and improve thermal comfort. *Excessive covering with blankets*: Covering the child with multiple or thick blankets in an attempt to increase warmth despite the presence of fever. *Tepid sponging*: Wiping the child's body with lukewarm water (approximately 32–35 °C) to reduce discomfort associated with fever. *Application of alcohol*: Applying alcohol to the skin (e.g., rubbing or wiping) as a traditional method intended to reduce body temperature. *Application of a vinegar-soaked cloth*: Placing cloths soaked in diluted vinegar on the child's body as a traditional fever-reducing practice. *Lukewarm shower or bath*: Bathing the child with lukewarm water to provide symptomatic relief during fever. *Cold bathing*: Bathing the child with cold water as an attempt to rapidly reduce body temperature. *Oral antipyretic formulation*: Administration of antipyretic medication via the oral route, including liquid or solid formulations.

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D. Knowledge About Fever	Why should fever be reduced? (Multiple answers allowed)	To relieve discomfort/ To prevent organ damage/ To prevent seizures/ To prevent disability / To treat the underlying disease
	What are the possible consequences of fever in children? (Multiple answers allowed)	Severe illness / Brain damage / Seizures / Coma / Death / Other (please specify):
	At which axillary temperature do you define fever? At what axillary temperature do you consider it to be low body temperature (hypothermia)?	Open-ended (°C) Open-ended (°C)
E. Sources of Information	Sources of your knowledge about fever (Multiple answers allowed)	Personal experience / Extended family members / Neighbors / Physician or other healthcare professionals / Books/ Television / Internet / School
F. Practices According to Fever Level	What do you do at different fever levels? (Multiple answers allowed)	38 °C / 39 °C / 40 °C
	Home observation [‡]	Yes / No
	Reducing clothing layers	Yes / No
	Excessive covering with blankets despite fever	Yes / No
	Tepid sponging	Yes / No
	Application of alcohol	Yes / No
	Application of a vinegar-soaked cloth	Yes / No
	Lukewarm shower or bath	Yes / No
	Cold bathing	Yes / No
	Oral antipyretic formulation	Yes / No
	Rectal antipyretic	Yes / No
	Contacting a physician	Yes / No
	Presenting to a healthcare facility	Yes / No
	Use of antibiotics without prescription	Yes / No
other fever management practices (please specify)	Open-ended	

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