UiO : Institute of Health and Society
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Digital health information in Iringa, Tanzania: Development, provision and testing the effect of digital cysticercosis/taeniosis messages on rural communities

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UiO : Global Health
NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
The Research Council of Norway

The DigI-project and the team

- "Non-discriminating access for digital inclusion" (DigI)-project, funded by Norwegian Research Council and NORAD (1,5 mill USD)
- Jan 2017 – Sept 2020
- 11 partners from Tanzania, US, India, DR Congo, Rwanda, Serbia, Germany, France, Spain and Norway

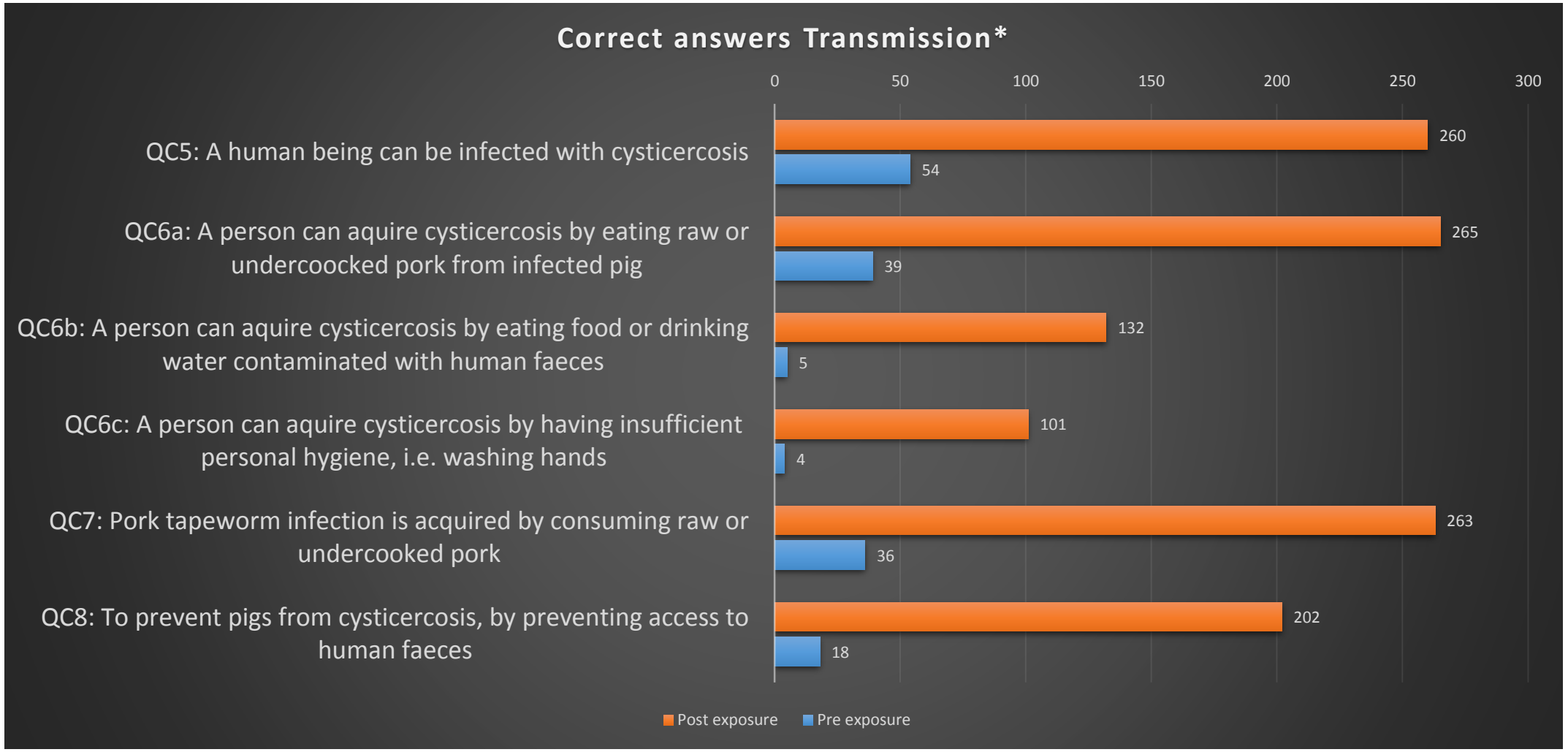
Snapshots from website and TSCT animation developed by the DigI-team

Ongoing non-randomised controlled study to test the effect of the digital health messages

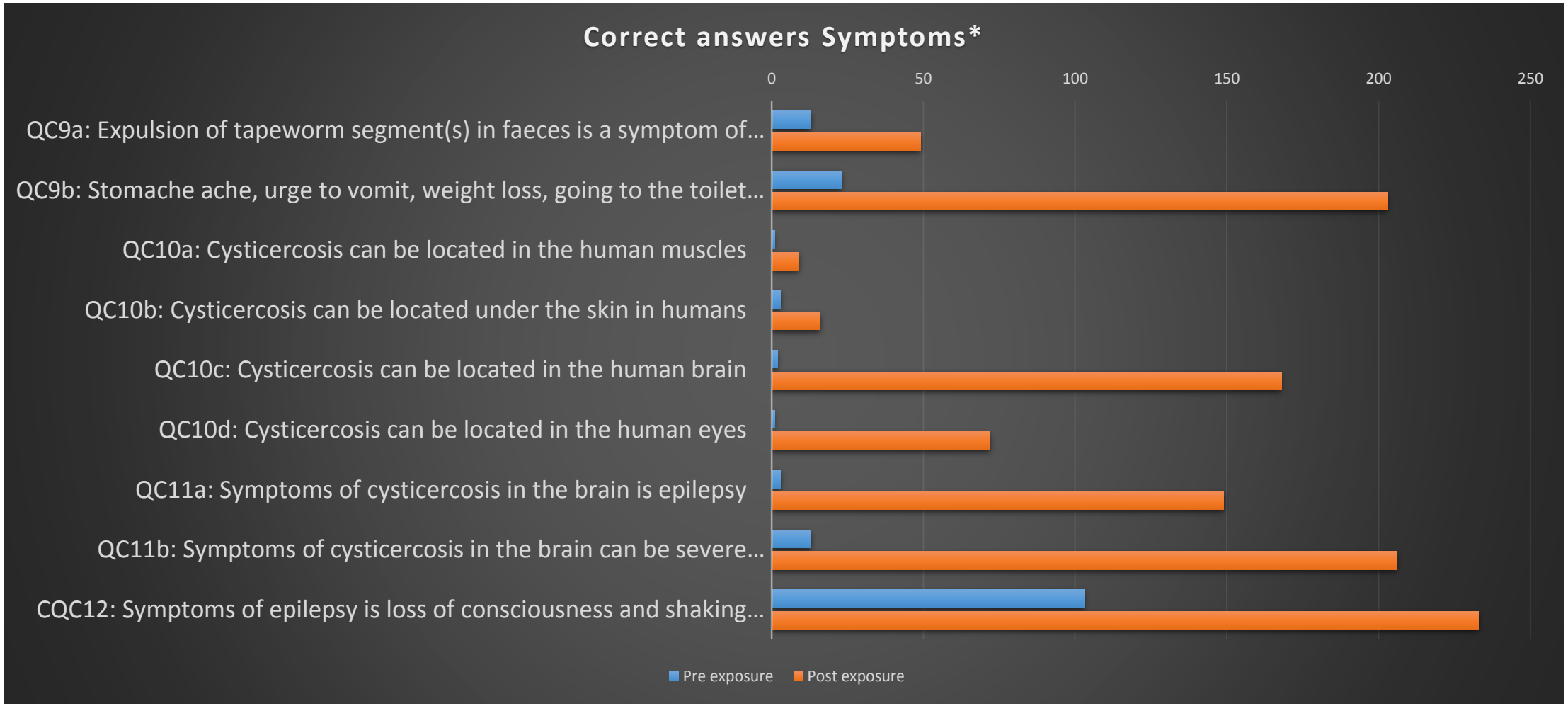
- Two intervention villages with 298 participants in total
- Two control villages with 300 participants in total
- Baseline (in both villages) and exposure to digital health messages and immediately after assessment (only in intervention villages) – April / May 2019
- First follow-up in August / September 2019
- Next follow-up in February 2020

Preliminary findings from the intervention villages

- Increase in all TSTC knowledge domains
  - (Prevalence)
  - Transmission
  - Symptoms
  - Treatment
  - Prevention



*Preliminary results



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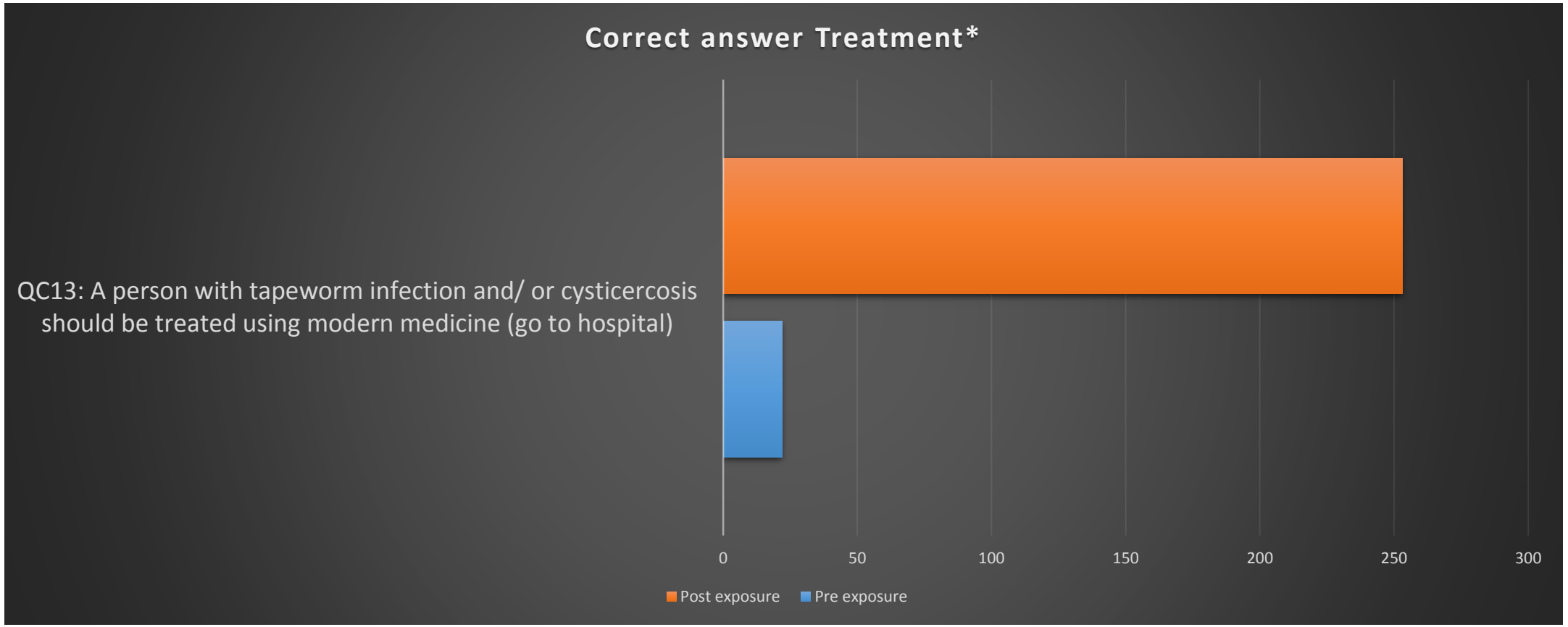

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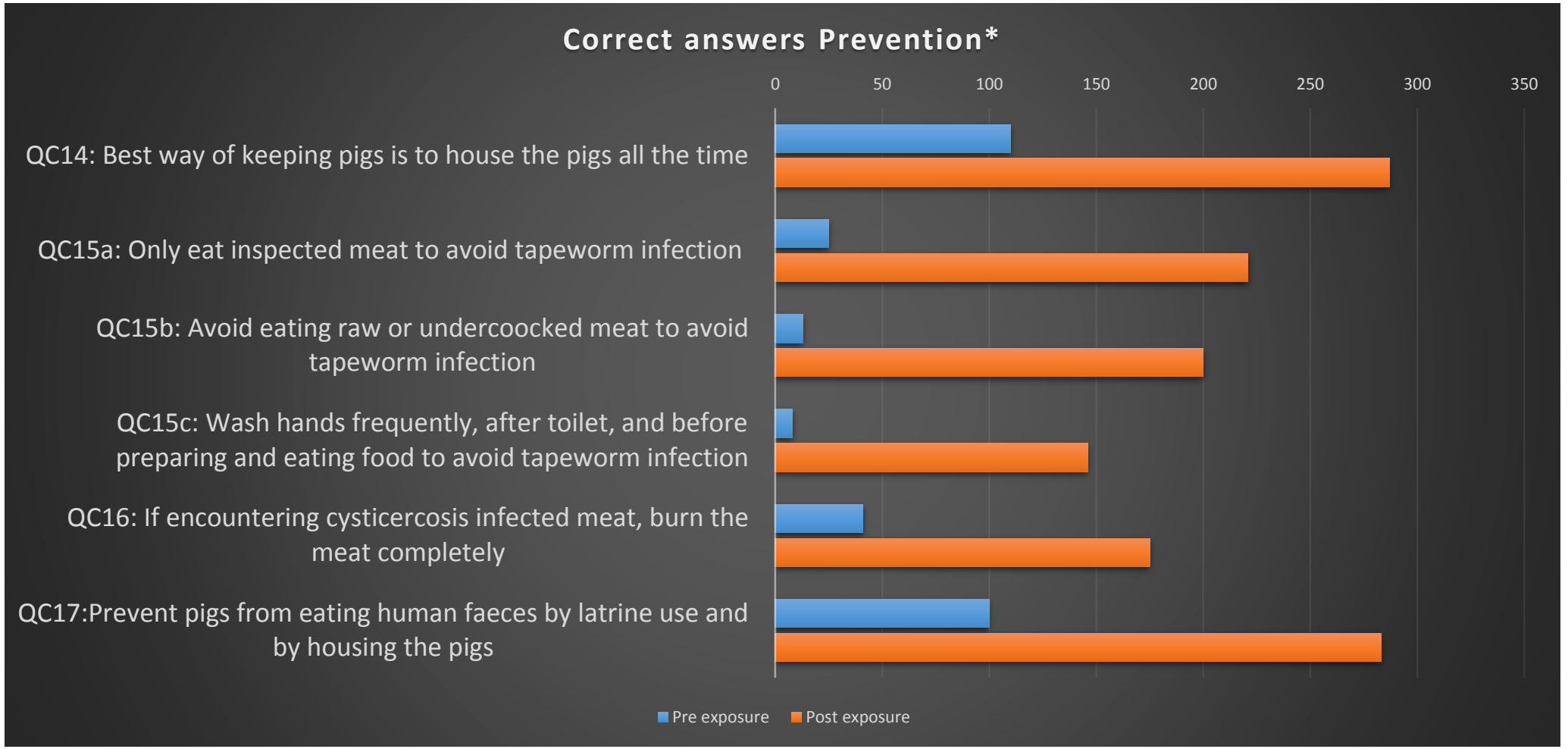

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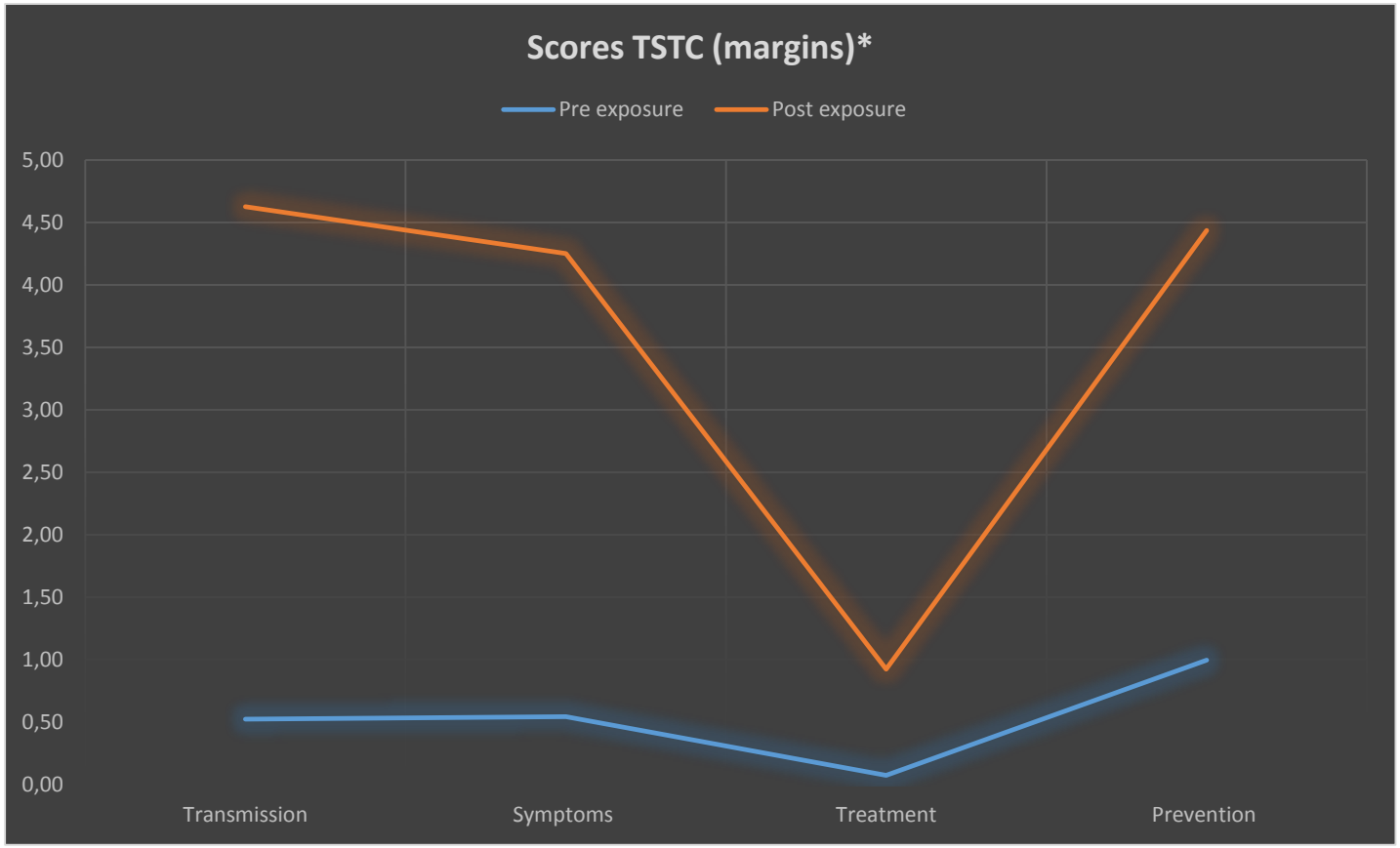


	Pre-score	Post-score
Transmission score (max 6) margins	0,52	4,10
Symptoms score (max 9) margins	0,54	3,71
Treatment score (max 1) margins	0,07	0,85
Prevention score (max 6) margins	1,00	3,44
Accumulated score (max 22) margins	2,14	12,10

*Preliminary results have not yet been adjusted for confounders (age, gender, education etc.)

Analysis of the results

- McNemar test
- Scores adjusted for confounders
  - Education
  - Age
  - Gender

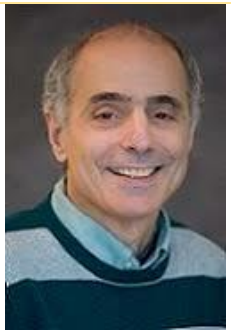
Summary:
Main impressions form fieldwork and analysis

- Participants in the intervention village appreciate the digital health messages
  - In the first follow-up, only 1 out of 280 reported that they did not like the digital health messages, and 270 out of 280 reported that that learned something from them
- The importance of culturally sensitive content
- Unbiased health messages of high quality
- In local language
- Significant results related to knowledge uptake

Next phases

- Village platform rollout in November
- Follow-ups in February and May
- Semi-structured interviews
  - Planned with participants in each of the intervention villages (users and non-users of the village platform)

Special thanks

Dr. Bernard Ngowi	Prof. Josef Noll	Prof. Andrea Winkler	Prof. Helena Ngowi	Mr. Erwan Le Quentrec	Dr. Maurice Isabwe	 Dr. Peter Cardellichio
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