From MNHC, NCDs to prevention of infectious diseases and plantibodies: meeting challenges of our times.

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DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v16i2.1

Cite as: Tumwine JK. From MNHC, NCDs to prevention of infectious diseases and plantibodies: meeting challenges of our times. Afri Health Sci. 2016;16(2): i-iii. http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v16i2.1

In this June 2016 issue of AHS, we have four main themes: maternal newborn and child health (MNHC); non communicable diseases (NCDs); prevention of infectious diseases; and plants in health and diseases including pioneering work on plantibodies!

MNHC: Ugandan authors report on health facility based neonatal care in limited resource settings, using Mulago Hospital Special Care Baby Unit as a case study. They report unacceptably high levels of neonatal mortality with prematurity and its complications being the major culprits.\(^1\) They call for a rethink of the management of hypothermia and respiratory distress. The next articles focus on platelet counts as predictors of paediatric mortality;\(^2\) ENT problems in Nigeria;\(^3\) trends in congenital heart disease;\(^4\) NCDs in children in Ghana\(^5\) and deficiencies of vitamin A and iron in rural communities in Nigeria.\(^6\) Authors from Kenya report a randomised controlled trial comparing weight adjusted dose versus fixed dose prophylactic phenylephrine infusion on maintaining systolic blood pressure during caesarean section under spinal anaesthesia.\(^7\)

There is an interesting article on knowledge of pre-eclampsia in women living in Dodoma, Tanzania.\(^8\) Still in Tanzania, we report on universal coverage of maternal services in Iringa rural District.\(^9\) Spousal violence and pregnancy termination among married women in Nigeria is a big issue needing attention.\(^10\)

Turkish authors on the other hand report on the effect of anxiety and depression on pregnancy outcomes\(^11\), while Zimbabwean authors report an interesting story on communicating reproductive health information.\(^12\) Amibale! Makorokoto!

NCDs: Up to now, we are still talking about NCDs because they have become endemic in our region. Bad news, but we have a duty to report progress or lack of it. So here we go! We have articles on vitamin D metabolism in patients with renal disease;\(^13\) low glycemic foods in type 2 diabetes;\(^14\) asthma control;\(^15\) renal cancer and sickle cell disease;\(^16\) depression and diabetes;\(^17\) exercise and obstructive airway disease;\(^18\) biomass effects on fishing communities;\(^19\) and factors influencing men to undergo prostate specific antigen.\(^20\)

The next 2 papers report on effect of weight loss on biomarkers of endothelial function\(^21\), and the effect of recombinant human endostatin on hypertrophic scar formation.\(^22\)

We have an interesting article on geriatric fall injuries;\(^23\) and exercise and insulin-like growth factors.\(^24\)

Infections: prevention:

The rest of the papers are on infectious diseases especially prevention. They range from Human papilloma virus vaccine in South Africa\(^25\), factors affecting vaccine handling and storage,\(^26\) to the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria on polio eradication.\(^27\) From Ethiopia we have a paper on the prevalence and factors associated with TB/HIV co-infection,\(^28\) while Nigerian workers write for us on thyroid function and multi drug resistant TB.\(^29\) The section concludes a much awaited paper from Gabon: Cerebrospinal meningeal infections in HIV-infected patients.\(^30\)

We have a paper on upper GIT endoscopy\(^31\), while the next set of papers is on herbal remedies.\(^32,33\) The final paper is on the equivalent of antibodies in plants the so called plantibodies!\(^34\) Enjoy your reading and drop us a line if you will.
References


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