

EDITORIAL

The prevention of cardiovascular disease in middle and low income countries has become an important goal as the prevalence of cardiovascular disease is on the increases in these countries. Ofori and Odia present a review which appraises the risk assessment of cardiovascular disease in these countries. The review also evaluates the evidence for the recommendation of some screening tools for this purpose. They conclude that in low-resource settings, the consistent use of simple tools like the WHO charts is recommended as the benefit of a standard approach to screening outweighs the risk of missing an opportunity to prevent CVD.

Fixed drug eruptions (FDEs) are a common adverse drug effect. Otike-Odibi et al report the outcome of a study which aimed to describe the epidemiology of FDEs with a view to identify common causative drugs among patients at the dermatology clinic of an urban tertiary hospital in the South-south region of Nigeria. They report a 1.93% prevalence of FDE in the study and noted the leading role of sulfonamides as causative agents.

The risk of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is known to be higher in certain groups like health care workers and medical students due to their occupational susceptibility. It is on this background that Nsirim and Peterside report the outcome of a study aimed at determining the HBV vaccination rate and knowledge of HBV infection among Medical students at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). They report a low vaccination rate and call for more institutionalized action to promote vaccination against HBV in occupationally at risk groups including medical students.

The delivery of quality of healthcare services has become more imperative as patients and clients now have more information and demand for better satisfaction and quality in healthcare. It is on this background that Odatuwa-Moagbemia aims to assess patient satisfaction with services provided at the Surgical Out-patient Department of the Delta University Teaching Hospital, Oghara, Delta State Nigeria.

In a study which used the short form Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire-18 (PSQ-18); he concludes that there is huge gap in patient satisfaction across many domains and recommends interventions to improve on patient satisfaction and overall quality of care.

Parkinson's disease causes significant disability and impairs the health-related quality of life, which is not usually assessed among African and Nigerian patients with PD. Okunoye et al in a controlled prospective study examined the generic and disease-specific health related quality of life profiles of Nigerian Africans with Parkinson's disease. The study utilized a combination of the Parkinson's disease questionnaire-39 (a disease-specific instrument), the EQ-5D (a generic instrument), a clinical evaluation with the Hoehn and Yahr stage of illness scale and the motor section of the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale. They conclude that Patients with Parkinson's disease had much poorer generic and specific health related quality of life in comparison to their healthy counterparts and recommend a holistic approach to improve the quality of life among in all domains for patients with PD.

Teratomas are rare germ cell tumors and the mediastinum is one of the areas they may occur. Ochelli, et al report a rare case of a giant mediastinal teratoma in the left hemithorax diagnosed as an incidental finding. A review of the literature on the treatment and outcome of the condition is also presented.

Hypertension in childhood is usually infrequent and secondary to renal or other diseases. Nte, et al report a case of an 11 year old female with hypertension caused by a pheochromocytoma treated definitively with surgery. The report aims to highlight the challenges of diagnosis and treatment of such cases in areas with limited health facilities, medical expertise and manpower.

Dr. Datonye D. Alasia
Editor