

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Welcome to the October 2023 edition of The Tropical Journal of Health Sciences.

The studies reported in this edition were from various medical disciplines. The first article was a study which assessed equity in enrollments into National Health Insurance Scheme among individuals of different households. The result showed that the scheme favored people from the rich socio-economic class than the poor socioeconomic class who needed it most. It was recommended that policy makers should adopt a tax based health financing system which will embrace both the poor and rich households.

The next article was on breast cancer and this is the most frequently diagnosed life threatening cancer among women worldwide. It presented a study on easy means of prognosticating the disease outcome. In this study Neutrophils: Lymphocytes, Platelets: Lymphocytes, Monocytes: Lymphocytes and Eosinophils: Lymphocytes ratios were calculated and related to patients clinico-pathological characteristic. The result showed that Neutrophil: Lymphocytes ratio was increased in breast cancer patients than in the controls. This was associated with poorer survival and adverse prognosis in breast cancer patients.

The third and fourth articles dealt with issues concerning Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infections. This is a disease of public health importance. The first study reported the assessment of pharmacotherapy of people living with HIV and AIDS attending antiretroviral therapy clinic in a Tertiary Hospital in Ilorin. The study revealed that substantial number of patients did not have thorough physical examinations documented in their case notes and this can affect handling of the other co-morbidities. It was therefore recommended that training and retraining of healthcare providers on appropriate documentation and careful physical examination to improve HIV care among people living with HIV is important. The next article was a review of the determinants of family planning uptake among HIV-positive women attending General Hospital Kaduna. The study showed that only about 39.7% of the respondents were using contraceptives, 16.2 % were not using due to fear of complications and 19.7 were not using due to lack of sexual partner. It was recommended that improved health education and counseling programs will help to increase utilization of contraceptives among HIV-positive women.

Another study determined the non-audiometric indicator of hearing loss among the delinquent youth in a custodian facility in the North-Central Nigeria. The study identified people at high risk of hearing loss and about 33.45% of the inmates had otological complaints that were not reported.

Trial of labour is a term often used for pregnant women who have had one previous transverse lower segment caesarean section, for possibility of a normal vaginal delivery if no other contra-indications to vaginal delivery is present. The study assessed the determinant of successful vaginal birth after one caesarean section in Benin City. It was a retrospective analytical study that showed that successful vaginal delivery is achievable in women with one previous transverse lower segment caesarean section with 64.3% success rate recorded in the study.

The last article in this edition determined the factors influencing presentation of patients with proptosis. The study revealed that there was late presentation of patients with proptosis to the oculoplastic clinic of the ophthalmology department. The major factors that influenced early presentation were age greater than 40 years and level of literacy.

HAPPY READING!

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