

EDITORIAL

A wide range of cutaneous manifestations are present in End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients, which may be due to the medications prescribed for patients on conservative care, maintenance dialysis and transplant. Drs Otike-Odibi and Okunoye report the outcome of a study among patients with ESRD in order to identify the common medication related cutaneous disorders and the causative drugs. They observed that medication related skin disorders are more common in patients with ESRD with hypertrichosis, steroid acne and gingival hyperplasia as the most common disorders. They recommend that physicians be aware of these complications so that alternative drugs that would improve the quality of life of patients with ESRD can be used.

Drs Eke and Opara studied the knowledge and home management practice of “nappy rash” among mothers in Port Harcourt using a cross sectional questionnaire based study. They report a poor knowledge of nappy rash and inappropriate home treatment in the mother’s surveyed. They recommend increased awareness and enlightenment campaigns about the skin care of young children targeted at mothers.

Road traffic crashes still remain a prominent cause of death worldwide but proper use of safety belts can prevent death in some of these accidents. Dr Akinbami presents the report of a retrospective study conducted in conjunction with the federal road safety commission (FRSC) of Nigeria aimed at examining the role of seat belt use/violation in Rivers State, Nigeria. The study also sought to determine the relationship between the roles of seat belt violation with the fatality of road traffic accidents. He concluded that the relationships between seat belt use/violation and outcomes of RTA in Rivers State were not statistically significant in this study, though there was some benefit observed in the reduction of mean RTAs during the period of enforcement. The

author advocates better data and information management systems in Nigeria for effective RTA data and outcome monitoring.

RTAs result in the death many young people in Africa and Nigeria with projected deaths expected to surpass deaths from common communicable diseases. Korter G, et al present the outcome of a study on the Spatio – Temporal analysis of the characteristics and causes of road traffic crashes in Oyo state of Nigeria with a view to establishing the determinants of spill-over effects (spatial dependence) of RTA over the contiguous study areas in order to identify areas of emphasis in the implementation of RTA reduction programs.

Stroke mimics or misdiagnosis are not uncommon in medical practice, though standard acute neuroimaging with non-contrast CT scanning will discover some of these mass lesions mimicking stroke. Okunoye et al present a case report of cerebral toxoplasmosis as a stroke mimic in a 52 year old male with neurologic features suggestive of a right hemispheric ischaemic stroke and Brain CT features of cerebral toxoplasmosis. They recommend that physicians have a high index of suspicion for stroke mimics and ensure that radiologic brain imaging is done in all suspected stroke patients in order to ensure appropriate diagnosis and treatment as in this index case.

Thirteen scientific abstracts presented at the 2013 Annual general meeting and scientific conference of the Nigerian Medical Association Rivers state branch are published.

We appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of all our reviewers and authors who have contributed to the journal in the year and look forward to an exciting 14th volume in 2014.

Datonye Dennis Alasia