

EDITORIAL

Malaria and HIV are diseases with a huge burden in Sub Saharan Africa and Nigeria. This review article by Wuche, highlights the burden of this two conditions and evaluates the interactions of this diseases which have been reported in literature from Africa and Nigeria. The review identifies the areas of drug interaction and co-infection management as key challenges which require more research and attention. The review also notes that there is a paucity of research output on the HIV and Malaria interactions from Nigeria.

Community participation in primary health care (PHC) has been identified as a major strategy to promote the utilization and effectiveness of PHC services. It is on this background that Brisibe and Ordinioha studied the attitude of health workers, and community members towards the formation of a community health committee (CHC) using qualitative survey methods. They noted that there are significant impediments to the functionality of the CHC which need to be addressed in order to achieve the purpose for the formation of CHCs with improved community participation in PHC delivery.

The clinical course of Parkinson's disease (PD) is not limited to motor symptoms as a variety of non-motor symptoms (NMS) such as psychiatric, gastrointestinal, cognitive, sudomotor, autonomic, sleep and sensory disorders which occur commonly are usually underappreciated as features of PD. Okunoye et al in this study evaluate the NMS in PD in a group of patients in Port Harcourt Nigeria. The study concludes that NMS occur in PD patients in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. There is a need to create more awareness on NMS in PD among patients and health care providers.

HIV/AIDS constitutes a major public health threat responsible for significant morbidity and mortality in sub Saharan Africa (SSA) and Nigeria. The social perspective of the HIV/AIDs which is reflected in the mode of transmission and prevalence patterns makes the socio-economic and demographic profiling of the disease relevant. Wuche and Akani evaluated the socio-economic profile of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs) in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. They identified age, sex, marital status, education as important demographic factors which influence the

characteristics of PLWAs in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. They recommend the use of such profiling in the implementation of control and prevention measures.

Trauma ranks as one of the leading cause of mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa. Akinbami and Kombo compared the pattern of traumatic injuries and mortality rates resulting from trauma at the university of port Harcourt teaching hospital over a 2year time period (2011-2012) and (2012 – 2013). The study observed that more males were involved with injuries in both periods. Road traffic accidents (RTAs) and Burns were responsible for most of the injuries in both periods. The mortality was 6.8% and 2.5% over respectively the two time periods. They recommend more intervention in trauma prevention and management.

Accurate diagnosis of disease conditions using laboratory, imaging or endoscopic investigation is essential for appropriate treatment. Ray-Offor and Obiorah present the outcome of an upper GIT endoscopy audit from Port Harcourt. The major indications were dyspepsia 23 (52.3%) and dysphagia 8(18%). Non-ulcerative gastritis was the most common endoscopic finding seen in 16 (32%) cases and more than one pathologic condition was seen in 8 (18%) cases. They conclude that Peptic ulcer is not the most common cause of dyspepsia. Gastritis and multiple non-ulcer pathologies are more common. They advocate the use of thorough endoscopic investigation for patients with symptomatic upper GI disease.

Primary cancers of the male urethra are rare and only few cases have been reported. The rarity of this disease thus present with challenges in diagnosis and management. It is on this background that Raphael and Ekeke present a case of primary male urethral cancer initially diagnosed as urethral stricture disease. They note that though urethral cancers are rare; early presentation by the patient and a heightened index of index of suspicion by the surgeon will reduce the need for radical surgeries which is often not desirable.

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