

EDITORIAL

Cervical cancer a preventable disease, still has a high mortality in developing countries like Nigeria. Ogu and Ojule present an overview of cervical cancer through a review of the literature. The review discusses the various modalities available for screening and prevention of cervical cancer, with aim of stimulating practitioners to promote awareness of cervical cancer screening and prevention. They highlight the importance of institutionalized cervical cancer screening and vaccination against HPV as important steps in cervical cancer prevention in developing countries.

Primary health care has been identified as the most cost-effective way of realizing health for all; while community participation in the running of health services is recognized as the key to unlocking the potentials of primary health care. Brisibe and Ordinioha report the outcome of study which assessed the effectiveness of a community health committee (CHC) in an oil bearing community in Rivers State, south-south Nigeria. The study identified areas of gap in the function of the committees which limited their efficiency and effectiveness. They conclude that the constitution of a CHC does not guarantee the expected level of community participation. They recommend effective leadership and full community control of health centers in order to improve on the functionality of the committee and PHC services.

The prevalence of hypertension seems to be increasing in children and adults in urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa. Okagua et al, present the result of a cross sectional study which evaluated the prevalence of hypertension in children living in rural areas Rivers State in South-South Nigeria. The study found a 4.3% prevalence rate of hypertension in adolescents in rural areas of Rivers State. The authors note that this prevalence is high, and thus emphasize the need for regular blood pressure surveillance in clinicians caring for these adolescents.

Childhood bronchial asthma is a major cause of chronic respiratory morbidity and mortality. The worldwide prevalence of asthma has been noted to be on the increase with a trend of equaling prevalence in both the developing and developed countries. Okoh and Frank-Briggs studied the

hospital prevalence and severity of childhood asthma and its associated risk factors among children in Port Harcourt Nigeria. The study reported a hospital prevalence of childhood asthma of 1.2% with various associated risk factors.

Evidence from clinical studies has shown that for most HIV positive patients near perfect adherence ($\geq 95\%$) are required for virological suppression and clinical success. Ibekwe carried out a study to determine the level of adherence to antiretroviral therapy and to identify predictors of adherence and non-adherence in a cross sectional study of HIV positive patients in Benin, Nigeria. They reported an adherence rate of 88.3% which is lower than the expected. The study also identified the common reasons for non-adherence and recommends the implementation of adherence counselling in dealing with the adherence gap.

Inadequate supply of safe blood has been a source of worry to health facilities in Nigeria. Nwanadi et al evaluate the response and attitude to the use of Umbilical Cord Blood (UCB) as an alternative to adult blood for the purpose of blood transfusion. The study identified a low acceptance of UCB as an alternative to adult blood transfusion by pregnant women in Makurdi. The authors recommend massive public awareness program to deal with the misconceptions surrounding UCB transfusion.

The knowledge of the pattern of disease in any environment provides useful information which guides the planning of disease management intervention strategies. Allagoa and Ukoima present the outcome of an audit of the adult surgical admissions at the Niger delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri, Bayelsa State. They found that trauma was the commonest cause of surgical admission while the percentage of deaths was highest in patients with malignancies.

The journal expresses its appreciation to all its reviewers, contributors and all other partners for a successful fourteenth year of publication.

Datonye Dennis Alasia
Editor in Chief