

EDITORIAL

The prevailing high sero-prevalence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B and C viral infections in the sub-Saharan African populations such as Nigeria, has further increased the risks associated with allogenic blood transfusion. It has also made the availability of free blood for transfusion to needy patients increasingly difficult in recent times in these populations. It has thus become imperative for clinicians to begin to adopt less blood dependent approaches in the care of anaemic patients. This review article by F.S. Wokoma introduces the subject of the principles and practice of bloodless medicine and surgery (BLMS) with a view to advocating its adoption and integration into the health care programs of sub-Saharan African countries such as Nigeria.

Infertility is a major global problem and is regarded as a social stigma in the Nigerian society. At least one in every ten couples of reproductive age has infertility. Galactorrhoea is one of the complaints often associated with infertility. Its relationship with amenorrhoea and infertility is well established. Jeremiah et al, sought to determine the incidence and contribution of galactorrhoea to female infertility and to determine any correlation between galactorrhoea and hyperprolactinaemia.

Septic abortion occurs when there is colonization of the upper genital tract by micro organisms following termination of pregnancy usually before the age of viability. This can result from ascending infections from the lower genital tract or direct inoculation of micro organisms from contaminated and poorly sterilized instruments at the evacuation of the uterus in incomplete abortion or during unsafe abortion. Septic abortion is accompanied by significant morbidity, cost and maternal death in Nigeria. The aim of this study by Oriji et al, was to identify the common micro organisms present in the endocervix and posterior vaginal fornix in patients with septic abortions. It is expected that knowledge of the microbial flora causing septic abortion is important in the prevention and treatment of this condition as it will provide evidence for empirical and prophylactic antibiotic therapy.

Hand washing with soap and water is one of the most effective and inexpensive means of preventing infections. Rates of hand washing are low worldwide even amongst health care workers who are expected

to know its importance. Drs Opara and Alex-Hart evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and hand washing practices both in and outside the hospital amongst medical students in Port Harcourt.

Neonatal Tetanus has continued to contribute to morbidity and mortality in developing countries such as Nigeria despite the availability, for over 30 years of an effective vaccine. Its contributing factors include low immunization coverage, poor obstetric services and illiteracy. This study by Yaguoide, et al aims at reviewing the status of neonatal tetanus in the University of Port Harcourt teaching hospital, by examining the characteristics and outcome while highlighting the need for instituting sustainable control measures.

The target of the world Health organization (WHO) to reduce blindness to less than 0.5% in all countries and <1% in individual countries is only possible if all major blinding eye diseases are detected early and treated or even prevented from occurring. Unfortunately, this target is frequently hampered by the problem of access to effective eye care in developing countries. It is on this background that Drs Ejimadu and Pedro-Egbe aim to determine the prevalence and causes of blindness in Ikwerre Local Government Area of River State, Nigeria.

Holoprosencephaly is a complex intracranial abnormality with 3 ranges of severity: Lobar, semi-lobar and alobar. The clinical presentation with typical facial anomalies is unique. Imaging with USS, CT and MRI are useful diagnostic tools. Agi and Abero report the first case of holoprosencephaly in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and highlight the clinical and radiological diagnosis of this condition.

The presentation of adrenal adenoma with ventricular fibrillation and sudden death is uncommon. Drs Uchenna and Unachukwu present a rare case report of suspected Conns syndrome in a 39year old female hypertensive that presented with recurrent ventricular fibrillation and associated adrenal tumour.

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