

EDITORIAL

The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is increasing in Nigeria and other Low and Middle Income countries (LMICs). It is therefore important that countries like Nigeria develop strategies to address this challenge in line with the global efforts to deal with NCDs. Chinenye et al present a review which highlights the increasing burden of Diabetes in Nigeria and the role of advocacy, policy and frame-work for integrating Diabetes care into the primary healthcare system in Nigeria. They advocate for increased political will, healthcare systems strengthening and improved funding with the incorporation diabetic care guidelines into primary care especially in the rural communities of Nigeria for improved primary and secondary prevention of diabetes and other NCDs.

Radiological investigations are often essential in the management of patients and radiologic request are the major tool of communication between clinicians and the radiologist. Agi et al performed an audit of radiologic form requests in a tertiary hospital in Port Harcourt Nigeria. They note that radiological request forms are poorly and incompletely filled in many sections and recommend orientation for clinicians on the importance of providing adequate information with radiologic request.

Chronic low back pain is a common disease with significant morbidity and infrared radiation therapy is a widely used method in Physiotherapy for the management of such pain. In this comparative study Ojeniwet al compared the efficacy of 6 weeks infrared radiation therapy on pain intensity and functional disability index in subjects suffering from non-specific low back pain against 6 weeks of NSAIDs therapy. They report that infrared radiation therapy was effective in reducing pain and improving functional disability index in chronic low back pain and produced results which were comparable and non-inferior to NSAIDs.

Systemic sclerosis and other connective tissue diseases which are thought to be rare in Nigerians are not common causes of heart failure compared to hypertensive heart disease. In addition the presence of cardiac involvement in

patients with systemic sclerosis is a poor prognostic indicator. Eze et al, present a rare report of congestive cardiac failure as a result of primary cardiac involvement in a patient with systemic sclerosis. They note that cardiac involvement should be sought for in patients with systemic sclerosis who present in heart failure without assumption that the cause is secondary to lung disease and pulmonary hypertension.

Abdominal TB usually presents with nonspecific findings and may thus mimic a multitude of gastrointestinal disorders including intra-abdominal malignancies. Edafe et al present a case report of a patient with abdominal tuberculosis who was suspected to have an intra-abdominal malignancy. They conclude that abdominal Tb still remains a disease which should be kept in mind and considered by clinicians in Nigeria as it is a great mimic and may be hard-to-diagnose. A high index of suspicion and the use of ancillary, radiologic and surgical techniques should be employed in order to make a correct and prompt diagnosis.

Meningioma's are common intracranial tumors that may mimic stroke. Dodi-Manuel and Ilodibia present a case of meningioma in a patient with adult onset tonic clonic seizures who was clinically misdiagnosed as a stroke. They highlight the importance of Neuroimaging in stroke syndrome management in order to avoid misdiagnosis. They conclude that stroke misdiagnosis due to meningioma is a rare clinical occurrence but the presence of adult onset seizures should raise the suspicion and prompt further evaluation.

As we conclude the fourteenth volume of our publication and my last as Editor-In-Chief having served a six year tenure; I express my profound appreciation to all our contributing authors and reviewers for their support in making our journal publication a success.

I wish you all a splendid and more successful 2016.

Datonye Dennis Alasia
Editor