

## EDITORIAL

Glaucoma which a major cause of preventable blindness can be described as a progressive neurodegenerative disease of the retinal ganglion cells and their axons. This makes the use of neuroprotective agents a plausible strategy in glaucoma treatment. Dr Fiebai and Awoyesuku present a review on the use and role of neuroprotective agents in glaucoma management.

The Pattern of demand for Removable Acrylic Partial Denture (RPDs) and distribution of stock teeth carried by these prostheses is rarely reported. Arigbede and Taiwo evaluate the pattern of demand for RPDs and compare the patterns of distribution of stock teeth carried by these prostheses between the right and left sides of each jaw and between the upper and lower jaws respectively.

The use of alternative therapy is becoming more popular. Abodurin et al, present the results of a community based study which seeks to assess the prevalence, pattern, behaviour and determinants of Alternative Therapy (AT) use. Their study reports a high prevalence of unsafe AT use in Ilorin and recommend that the regulation of advertisement and sales of harmful herbal medicines should be intensified by NAFDAC and other related agencies. Further research into the safe and effective integration of AT into modern healthcare practice in Nigeria is also recommended

There are differences in the impact of blindness by age and sex; with blind males having a higher risk for death than females as documented in prior studies. Awoyesuku and Ejimadu, present the results of a study which described the age and sex difference among the blind in some Niger Delta communities of Nigeria. The study found blindness to be commoner in older age groups, while female gender appeared to be an important risk factor for blindness. They recommend that eye health education should target the elderly and females more, in addition to dealing with other factors which contribute to their vulnerability.

Traditional bone setting is common in developing

nations in spite of the complications associated with TBS treatment of fractures. This study by Ekere and Echem seeks to document the complications seen as a result of TBS treatment of fractures and dislocations at a private ortho-trauma centre. The common complications following treatment of fractures and dislocations by TBS include non-union and malunion which were both associated with shortening as well as chronic joint dislocation in addition to the largely avoidable limb gangrene. They conclude that there is a need for the basic training of TBS in order for them to be integrated into the primary care system.

Vitreous haemorrhage is one of the causes of visual loss and arises from a number of risk factors. This 3 year retrospective study by Fiebai and Pedro-Egbe aims to expose the causes of vitreous haemorrhage in our environment and evaluate the pattern of visual loss. They report that trauma is a significant cause of vitreous haemorrhage in our environment affecting the younger age group predominantly, while the poor presenting visual acuity usually reflects the severity of the causes of vitreous haemorrhage. They propose that awareness needs to be increased on the causes and risk factors of vitreous haemorrhage.

Fever is a common problem in childhood with most febrile episodes being managed at home by caregivers before consultation in a health facility. Resultantly the caregivers' response to fever will thus depend on their perception of its cause and knowledge of its management. This hospital based descriptive study by Alex-Hart and Frank-Briggs aimed to evaluate mothers' perceptions of fever and its management in childhood. They report that while the knowledge of fever is good amongst mothers in Port Harcourt; there is need to educate them on the use of thermometer and appropriate use of drugs.

There are various types of dextrocardia presentation, with some more common than others. Ekpe and Ikpe report a case of dextrocardia with atrial septal aneurysm and skeletal anomalies due this unusual association, in a 2 day old male who presented at the University of Nigeria teaching hospital, Enugu for care.

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