

EDITORIAL

The use of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) is a major component of various National and local HIV/AIDS treatment and control programs. In spite of this, the proportion of persons who become infected with resistant strains of HIV may be increasing. Isa et al, in this descriptive prospective cohort study assessed the efficacy of first line anti-retroviral (ARV) regimens among HIV infected treatment-naive patients. Their conclusion supports the view that using limited ARV regimens can result in acceptable treatment outcomes many years after they were first introduced.

Pregnant women living with HIV infection are at risk of transmitting HIV to their babies. Most of this transmission occurs during labour and delivery and during breast feeding. Due to the large proportion of medical care and deliveries which are conducted in private clinics, a good knowledge and attitude of private medical practitioner's will be useful in the reduction and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. This study by Okike et al, aims to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of general medical practitioner in Port Harcourt toward the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. They conclude that, Private General Practitioners were not well informed on practical aspects of prevention of MTCT of HIV/AIDS, but showed a willingness to receive training on this aspect of pregnancy management.

The provision of a Healthful School Environment is a prerequisite for the protection and promotion of the health of learners and attainment of Millennium Development Goal 2. This study by Alex-Hart and Akani sought to evaluate the availability of components of a healthful school environment in public primary schools in Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State using an evaluation scale. They report that environments of public primary schools in Bonny Local Government lacked the basic amenities of water and sanitation and are generally unsafe. They call for action to improve the school environment and health status as a prerequisite to attain the MDG goal 2.

Failure to plan a pregnancy can adversely affect the health of the family as a whole. Consequently good knowledge, attitude and practice of family planning among women are important. Allagoa and Nyengidiki in this study aimed to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice of contraception among antenatal clinic attendees in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. They found that while the contraceptive awareness amongst women attending antenatal clinic was high it did not result in a corresponding increase in utilisation of available methods. They propose that re-

education on the complications and safety of contraceptives among women and their spouses may improve the contraceptive uptake.

Childhood mortality which remains high in children under the age of 5 years is largely due to infectious and other preventable causes such as Human immunodeficiency virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome ((HIV/AIDS), pneumonia and malaria. The prevention of pneumonia deaths is therefore an important approach if the 4th Millennium Development Goal (MDG4) is to be attained. The aim of this study by Yuguo Ide et al was to describe the pattern, clinical features, management and complications of pneumonia in under-five children admitted in the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) and to highlight their morbidity and mortality. They report that Pneumonia which is still prevalent in under-fives in this environment is associated with significant morbidity and mortality especially among infants and propose strategies to limit the impact of this contributor to under-five morbidity and mortality in order to attain the MDG4 goal.

Glaucoma which is a major cause of preventable blindness can be treated with medical and surgical methods. The compliance with medical therapy is therefore a major determinant to successful treatment. This study by Chukwuka and Ejumadu sought to determine the rate of compliance to medical therapy of primary open angle glaucoma in Enugu with a view to improving patient care and reducing visual deterioration and loss from glaucoma.

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