

EDITORIAL

The prevalence of diabetes mellitus is rising in Nigeria and its complications present an immense public health burden. Drs Chinenye and Young review the state of diabetes care in Nigeria through the evaluation of prior research with focus on the needs, priorities and recommendations, which should guide clinicians. They conclude that most Nigerians living with diabetes have suboptimal control, are hypertensive's and have chronic complications. They recommend improved quality of care and treatment-to-target in line with guidelines to reduce diabetes-related morbidity and mortality.

Marjolin's ulcers though thought to be rare have been reported to have a higher incidence in sub-Saharan Africa. These tumours typically run an aggressive course with a poor prognosis. Late presentation has been reported to be typical of these cancers and some of the reasons adduced for this are difficulties in both clinical and pathological diagnosis.

This review by Opara and Otene which aims at enlightening the medical community on Marjolin's ulcers with a view to improving early recognition, treatment and outcome, reports a higher incidence of Marjolin's ulcers in developing countries and emphasise the role of early recognition and adequate treatment in improving outcome

Abortions performed by persons lacking the requisite skills or in environments lacking minimal medical standards or both are considered unsafe. It is estimated that over 20 million unsafe abortions are performed annually and about 70,000 women die globally as a result, with majority occurring in the developing world. Ayuba et al present the outcome of a study which aims to determine the pattern of complicated unsafe abortions in Niger delta University Teaching Hospital (NDUTH) Okolobiri through a four-year retrospective analysis of cases of complicated unsafe abortion managed at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital Okolobiri, Bayelsa state.

They report a high prevalence of unsafe abortions and associate maternal morbidity and mortality in the Niger Delta with it. They recommend that efforts directed at reducing unintended pregnancy by comprehensive family planning programs and effective post abortal care services will reduce the problem.

The hospital plays a significant role in modern health care delivery; while it provides an avenue for the treatment of patients, it can also encourage the transmission of several disease agents. Environmental interventions are routinely used to make the hospital

safe. This study by Ordinioha and Sawyer examined the facilities at the permanent site of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), a 510 bed multi-specialist hospital in Port Harcourt, south-south Nigeria using an assessment checklist originally developed by the WHO. Data collected include the quantity and quality of water provided for services in the hospital; the number, types and maintenance of the toilet facilities; the building design as it relates to ventilation; and the methods used in the hospital for the control of mosquitoes.

They report that the environmental status of the hospital is suboptimal and propose strategies for improvement.

Malaria and HIV infections are both endemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is therefore expected that co-infection of both will influence the morbidity of these diseases adversely. An evaluation of the prevalence of malaria antigen using the rapid diagnostic test kit in adult HIV seropositive patients was undertaken by Wariso and Nwauche. They report a prevalence of 26.5% and observe that there is no difference in the prevalence rate of HIV infected patients with malaria and those that are seronegative for HIV.

The involvement of the thyroid gland in Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection is known to be rare. Maduforo et al report a case of tuberculosis of the thyroid gland in a young Nigerian female. They note that a high index of suspicion is required to diagnose this rare condition and emphasize the role of radiological imaging as an adjunct in correct diagnosis and follow up.

The evaluation and management of hyperthyroidism in pregnancy is challenging to perioperative care givers. Ogan et al present the case report of an untreated graves' disease patient who had an emergency caesarean section with the objective of demonstrating the anaesthetic challenges in managing the haemodynamic challenges associated with untreated Graves' disease in pregnancy.

Errors of observed in the previous issues are published for correction

Datonye Dennis Alasia
Editor In-Chief