Editor's choice: Sexual reproductive health, child issues, NCDs, surgery, infections and health systems - a salad of sorts

James K Tumwine

Editor in Chief, African Health Sciences, kabaleimc@gmail.com

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This September 2023 issue of African Health Sciences is special in that it brings you fairly sophisticated papers ranging from those in sexual reproductive and child health, non-communicable diseases, infections, surgery, mental health and others.

The sexual reproductive health papers touch on a number of issues. Hence we have one on the efficacy of intra umbilical oxytocin¹, pain relief in manual vacuum extraction², emergency caesarean section³, and postnatal hypertension⁴. This is followed by prenatal papers⁵⁻⁶. Others highlight teenage pregnancy⁷, contraception and fertility issues⁸⁻⁹. Health challenges of menopause, and pre-menopause hold a special place¹⁰⁻¹¹ as are social behavior and violence against women and the girl child¹²⁻¹⁴.

Child Health, on the other hand, is dominated by neonatal issues such as birth asphyxia¹⁵⁻¹⁶, low birth weight¹⁷, and acute respiratory distress syndrome¹⁸. Issues affecting the child include under five mortality¹⁹, nutrition²⁰, vaccination²¹, use of mHealth²², iron deficiency²³, sickle cell anemia²⁴, and domestic accidents²⁵. We have a large collection on cancers²⁶⁻³⁴, including breast, ovarian and cervical, and pulmonary lesions, while diabetes mellitus papers³⁵⁻³⁷ occupy the next space.

As usual, infections³⁸⁻⁵⁶ are ubiquitous and don't seem to be going away. They include papers on tuberculosis³⁸⁻⁴², while most⁴³⁻⁴⁹ are dominated by Covid-19. The rest of this section consists of a heterogenous group of other infectious diseases⁵⁰⁻⁵⁶. We have a special section for those interested in Surgery and anesthesia⁵⁷⁻⁷⁰. The rest of the papers are in the realm of internal medicine⁷¹⁻⁷⁹, mental health80-81 and health systems⁸²⁻⁸⁷.

Finally, it only remains for me to thank all our partners for the friendship and confidence they have placed in us as we strive to push African scientific publishing to a higher level. Thank you very much indeed. Happy reading!

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