Editor's choice: Infections, sexual reproductive and child health out shine NCDs in the African environment

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As the world struggles to reach the dream of ending the HIV AIDS pandemic by the year 2030, many on the African continent and beyond, are still struggling with it at the household, village, and wider community. Researchers from far and wide continue working on this global pandemic, in order to mitigate its effects.

In this June 2024 issue of *African Health Sciences*, we bring you 20 manuscripts dedicated to infectious diseases, and two particular themes predominate: HIV and COVID-19. Hence, researchers from Uganda share their experience with viral re-suppression among children living on HAART[1], while Nigerian workers report on CD4 count recovery amongst patients receiving differing ART regimes[2]. The next paper is a treatise of how the COVID-19 lock down affected adherence to HAART in Zimbabwe's second largest city Bulawayo[3]. The next two papers, on the other hand, describe the interaction of HIV and reproductive health practice: screening for cervical cancer;[4] and the unmet needs for family planning amongst women living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa[5].

Other papers are on the twin sisters of HIV and TB[6-10].

There are two papers on COVID-19: one on adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccine[11], and a treatise on the effect of the pandemic on dental services in Nigeria[12].

Continuing with the dental theme, we bring you work on "chlorhexidine mouthwash and augmentin to prevent alveolar osteitis, after removal of mandibular third molar: a three-arm placebo- controlled randomized clinical trial" by Salah Sakka and others[13]. A paper on phytochemical profiling and acute oral toxicity of Suregada zanzibariensis follows[14]. A letter on pachy-meningitis[15], and a paper of aflatoxin contamination of spices in Tanzania[16] leads us into the rest of the section ,with papers on malaria[17-20].

The next set of papers is on sexual and reproductive health issues[21-29]. Hence, there is a paper on anemia in pregnancy[21], birth preparedness[22], safe motherhood in Northern Uganda,[23], placenta previa[24], and targeted antenatal care in Kenya[25]. There are papers on postpartum complications[26], and use of contraceptive devises postpartum among adolescents[27], sexuality in Ethiopia[28], and Nigeria[29].

The next four papers are on newborn and child health[30-34]. They include prediction of preterm birth[30]; low birth weight[31], breastfeeding and diarrhea[32], involvement of spouses in breastfeeding[33], and quality of services in acute care units[34].

The rest of the papers are on non-communicable diseases[35-45]. They include surgical cases such as intestinal obstruction[35]; appendicectomy[36]; cervical vertebrae[37]; traditional bone setters[38]; musculoskeletal pain[39]; motor cycle injuries cost[40]; exercise fatigue[41], and acute kidney injury[42]. The rest of the papers are on upper endoscopy[43]; physiotherapy for Parkinson' disease[44]. The treatise end with an interesting paper on palliative care in Ethiopia[45].

Happy reading!

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