

Editorial

This volume of the Journal of Paediatric Dental Research and Practice highlights publications cuts across public health, clinical research in different specialties in dentistry relevant to oral diseases in children, very rare case reports and multi-disciplinary study involving oral, otorhinolaryngologic and ophthalmic health, impaction in primary dentition and rare angulated bilateral tooth rotation.

In the first issue, evaluation of maturation of teeth plays a vital role in orthodontics and paediatric dentistry. Similarly, it is a valuable tool for legal bodies and forensic science in identifying individuals. Aghimien OA et al, assessed 93 participants in a tertiary health care facility in the north-central region of Nigeria by using Carestream digital software for linear measurements of the width of the open apex and the tooth length of a single mandibular canine on a digital peri – apical radiograph. They found that the regression model generated in their study could serve as a guide for predicting chronological age among Nigerian children and adolescents.

Childhood malignancy is considered the fourth most common cause of death in the paediatric population and this has raised concern that they may be on the increase Steliarova et al, 2017. Ladeji A et al, cross-sectional retrospective multi-centre study evaluated the trend of Paediatric orofacial malignancies in an African population from tertiary institutions domiciled in the south-western part of Nigeria and found that there seems to be a change in the prevalence of paediatric orofacial malignancies across the decades, with the most obvious rates observed in decreasing incidence of lymphomas in oral maxillofacial clinics but a steady rise in sarcomas.

Ogordi and Ugbodaga's cross-sectional study on children's choice of dentist's attire, colour and dental clinic environment is quite exciting. It is a pleasant surprise that 87% described paediatric dentist as dentists treating children. Children always prefer bright colours so the yellow colour for the dentist's attire, orange and yellow colour for the clinic wall with vertical colour contrast and cartoon characters are in order. It is evident from the children's response that dental awareness had been created among Nigerian children in that studied population which was why they have a good level of knowledge about who a paediatric dentist is. The children's choice of colour should be put into consideration when painting the paediatric dentistry clinics in the future.

Dental caries is the most prevalent childhood disease and is a public health problem in developed and developing countries. Omotuyole AS et al assessed 410 children attending the paediatric dental clinic of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital and evaluated the susceptibility of first and second primary molars to dental caries. They concluded that the pattern of presentation of caries was similar to other reported studies, the first primary mandibular molar was the most susceptible tooth, followed by the second primary mandibular molar and the least affected being the mandibular anterior teeth. Placement of fissure sealants as preventive measures on the molars as soon as they erupt is advocated.

Akindele BO et al case report of oral findings in a patient with Apert syndrome in this issue is quite educative, Apert syndrome is a very rare genetic condition characterized by craniosynostosis, mid-face hypoplasia, syndactyl, acrocephaly and often anomalies in other organs. The clinical feature of this syndrome is well documented with photographs to update our knowledge.

Oyedele TA et al, research on oral, otorhinolaryngologic and ophthalmic health of 465 primary school children in a suburban population in Nigeria showed that only 9.7% had good oral hygiene, 32.3 % gingivitis and 22.2% dental caries. The majority of the children in these rural communities had poor oral health, poor otorhinolaryngology health and fair ophthalmic health. This was a collaborative research study that enables dentists to further interact with other disciplines and this is highly encouraged. The editorial team looks forward to publishing more collaborative research.

In the second issue, Majekodunmi AR et al reported the management of a horizontally impacted maxillary primary incisor with dilaceratd root. There was a history of TDI preceding the tooth eruption. The importance of early presentation to prevent sequelae and regular review following early childhood injuries cannot be overemphasized. Adeyemi TE reported a rare case 90-degree rotation of the same teeth bilaterally in the same arch. Its exact aetiology is unknown, but genetic and environmental factors have been implicated. Early detection is necessary to prevent complications that could arise with its attendant cost of treatment.

Adekoya – Sofowora C.A.