

EDITORIAL

Autoimmune Connective Tissue Disorders have rarely been reported among African blacks and even in Nigeria, in contrast with African-Americans. This retrospective study by Otike-Odibi et al, examined the prevalence and pattern of autoimmune connective tissue diseases among patients in a dermatology and rheumatology clinic in Port Harcourt Nigeria. Their study indicates that out of 931 Rheumatology/Dermatology cases seen, 30 were autoimmune connective disorders indicating a frequency of 3.2%, with Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis and systemic sclerosis occurring in frequency of 91%, 6%, and 3% respectively. The age range of the subjects was between 14-59 years with 93.3% of the subjects being females. They conclude that autoimmune disorders may not be uncommon in Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, contrary to previous reports.

It is known that children constitute the majority of the patients' population seen in a typical ENT clinic in most hospitals. In the absence of a well-documented pattern of disease in these children, planning for their special health needs would be difficult. Drs. Ibekwe and Mbalaso carried out a descriptive prospective study aimed at determining the prevalence and pattern of these diseases in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Otologic disorders were the commonest disease entity (65.33%) while neck diseases were the least common (0.73%). They conclude that the prevalence of the ENT disease among the paediatric population is high and recommend the provision of facilities for managing these conditions and the training of ENT specialists.

Cancer of the cervix is one of the most common and preventable forms of cancer among women especially in developing countries of Africa and Asia. It is also known that the knowledge of disease and adoption of preventive action is essential for successful prevention. This study by Dr. Ibekwe was carried out to assess the level of knowledge, attitude and practice regarding cervical cancer and its screening among female clinical nursing students in Southern Nigeria. The study observed that while the level of knowledge and attitude on cervical cancer and its screening was high and good, the uptake of the screening service was very poor. The study recommends the promotion of education and the implementation of cervical screening promotion programs.

Kolawole et al present the findings on the prevalence of rhinovirus infection in children with respiratory infections using ELISA methods. They documented a seropositivity rate of 38% among the children studied. They noted that prevalence was highest in children aged 0-24 months and among urban dwelling children.

They conclude that ELISA methods are useful for the diagnoses of rhinovirus infection in children with respiratory infections.

Drs. Green and Ojule, report the finding of a study on helminthic infestations during pregnancy in Port Harcourt, Southern Nigeria. They reported an overall prevalence of helminthiasis in pregnancy of 22.7%, with *Ascaris lumbricoides* and hookworm being the most predominant infestations. The presence of helminthic infestations was significantly associated with eosinophilia, anaemia, clay (nzu) eating, socioeconomic class, and source of water. They advocate stool analysis and routine deworming of pregnant women in at risk areas especially after the first trimester to reduce the burden.

Childhood urethral mucosal prolapse which occurs in girls between the ages of six months and eight years can be associated with significant morbidity with resultant urethral loss especially with poor management. Dr John et al in this retrospective review examine the presentation and management experience of urethral prolapse in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. They observed that the age range of patients was 3-13 years, with genital bleeding and genital swelling as the most common complaints. They advocate more physician education about the condition as early diagnosis with medical and surgical treatment is adequate in preventing complications.

Marjolin's ulcers are a form of primary skin cancers with poor prognosis. Opara et al, present a 15 year review of the pattern of presentation and management challenges of Majorlin's ulcers in south eastern Nigeria. They observed that Majorlin's ulcers constituted 27% of primary skin cancers managed in that period with the malignancies arising from chronic active ulcers and previous scars with the lower limbs as the commonest site. They recommend better initial ulcer and scar management in order to prevent Majorlin's ulcers.

Ataxia telangiectasia is a complex multi-systemic disorder with immunologic, neurologic, endocrinologic, hepatic and cutaneous abnormalities. Yaguo-Ide et al report a case of ataxia telangiectasia in an 8 year old female in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. They advocate greater awareness of this disorder in order to improve early diagnosis and prevent long term complications such as pulmonary function impairment which have adverse consequences on the quality of life of the patients.

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