

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

What widows go through after the demise of their husbands vary from one community to the other. The first article in this edition of Tropical Journal of Health Sciences looked into knowledge of people in Ilorin with regards to rites of widows and some related factors. Knowledge of widowhood rites was not shown to be influenced by age, gender, religion, tribe and marital status of respondents. However, the level of education and occupation was shown to significantly influence the knowledge of widowhood rites ($p < 0.05$). They recommended a need to create more awareness and sensitization on widowhood rites through the mass media in order to improve knowledge of widowhood rites.

The next article has to do with health education on hand washing with soap among mothers of under-five children. An intervention study carried out before and after 3 months demonstrated effectiveness of health education, for preventing diarrhoeal disease in children.

In the next study, authors conducted administrative and clinical skills orientation trainings for freshly recruited medical graduates and evaluated the effect of the program on medical interns. This study concluded that most medical interns did not have sufficient knowledge of issues that borders on administration, hospital policies and work standard. Authors strongly recommended that mandatory orientation training be carried out for all intending medical graduates before the commencement of internship. In the next article the authors investigated the aqueous extract of *Cnestis ferruginea* root and found that it significantly decreased ($p < 0.05$) the levels of haemoglobin, packed cell volume, red blood cells, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular haemoglobin, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration and neutrophils. However, the levels of white blood cells increased significantly ($p < 0.05$). Furthermore, all the doses of the aqueous extract of *Cnestis ferruginea* root did not significantly ($p < 0.05$) alter the levels of platelets. The results suggest that the aqueous extract of *Cnestis ferruginea* root has parameter specific haematotoxic effect and might affect the normal physiology of the blood. This systemic effect which is not clinically beneficial to the animals may render the aqueous extract of *Cnestis ferruginea* root unsafe at the doses investigated in rats.

A study reported was undertaken to investigate the effects of different monosaccharides on histamine-stimulated gastric acid secretion and also to investigate whether acute infusion of these sugars would mitigate indomethacin-induced ulcer. The results show that glucose, fructose and galactose infusion inhibits histamine-stimulated gastric secretion although glucose had the strongest effect while galactose had the weakest. This study also provides further evidence that blood glucose level is a strong determinant of ulcer formation by NSAIDs.

Both the secondary metabolites in ethanolic extract of *Daucus carota* seeds (EEDCS) and its effects on acetaminophen-induced uremia and antiandrogenicity in male Wistar rats were investigated. The extract reversed the acetaminophen-treatment related changes in a manner that was comparable with the rats treated with olive oil and EEDCS only. This study concludes that the ethanolic extract of *D. carota* seeds has some bioactive principles that conferred antiuremic properties and restored androgenic activities in the animals.

Diagnostic procedures such as lipid profile, antibiotic sensitivity using proteus species and Pap smear were also investigated and reported. Various indications for Pap smear and the prevalence of cytological abnormalities in Ilorin, were highlighted using the Bethesda system. Majority of the smear-positive cases were seen in women who came for routine screening and the prevalence of intraepithelial lesions reported from our study is higher than what have been documented from other parts of the world. Increased public awareness about Pap smear, a properly organized screening program and availability of treatment modality for screen-positive women will reduce the burden of cervical cancer in Nigeria.

A.B. Okesina
Editor in Chief