

This edition comprises of seven original articles and one case report that cover both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The papers cover the randomized clinical trial on management of Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP), serum vitamin B12 levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus, Sickle cell Diseases (SCD), key pinch strength and abdominal hernia. They are educative and promise to add to the body of existing knowledge.

Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) is among the most common infectious diseases affecting adult worldwide. It is an increasing problem with significant morbidity and mortality especially in developing countries including Nigeria.¹ The most common pathological agents responsible for CAP among adults are *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae*. The guidelines for the treatment of CAP are those recommended by Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) and the American Thoracic Society (ATS).¹ In this edition, Ige and Okesola compared the efficacy and safety of ciprofloxacin and cefixime in the management of CAP. In this open labelled randomized, parallel group study on patients treated for fourteen days, cefixime was found to be superior to ciprofloxacin in terms of efficacy in the treatment of CAP, although both had good safety profile. The findings of the study will assist physicians in selecting appropriate empirical treatment for CAP in our environment. Also, this may discourage the use of fluoroquinolone in the empirical treatment of CAP in our environment as recommended by IDSA, especially the respiratory quinolone, as first line antibiotics for the treatment of CAP in areas of tuberculosis endemicity.²

Metformin is an important and one of the most widely used oral hypoglycaemic agents. It is however a known pharmacological cause of Vitamin B12 (cobalamin) deficiency with controversial mechanism.³ Vitamin B12 deficiency is an iatrogenic cause for the exacerbation of peripheral neuropathy, and megaloblastic anaemia in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.⁴ Akinlade *et al.* in their study aimed at determining the serum level of Vitamin B12 in Nigerian patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus on metformin, found that low serum Vitamin B12 is associated with longer duration and higher dose of metformin use. They suggested a routine screening for Vitamin B12 level among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus on high dose metformin and those on prolonged use.

Individuals with normal functioning hands perform the activities of daily living (ADL) spontaneously, but this becomes difficult with hand injuries. To be able to assess the activities of ADL, especially to evaluate the

outcome of surgical procedures on hands, the key pinch strength has been shown to be a standard objective clinical test. In order to evaluate the outcome of corrective surgeries following hand injuries in our environment, there is need for studies on baseline key pinch strength. Michael *et al.* were able to provide a baseline normal values for key pinch strength among healthy volunteers in Nigeria with no previous hand injuries limiting hand function. The normal values among the studied population were found to be lower than that of Caucasians.

Upper gastrointestinal bleeding is a life threatening condition especially in resource limited countries. It is associated with high morbidity and mortality. Rukewe *et al.* in their study aimed at describing the demographic, clinical characteristics and outcome of the patients who presented at the Emergency Department (ED) of a tertiary hospital in Nigeria observed that the common presentation were haematemesis and melaena. And the identified possible causes of high mortality were comorbidities and poor support services.

Ayandipo *et al.* retrospectively studied the clinical presentation of anterior abdominal wall hernias and surgical management in a tertiary hospital in Ibadan. Over a 6 year period (January 2008 to December 2013), majority of the anterior abdominal hernias were groin hernias, 922 (84.8%), followed by the incisional hernia 111(9.1%). Hollow viscus and emergency surgeries were predictor of wound infection, and one year recurrent rate for groin hernia was 2.1%. Modified Bassini repair was common, and mesh repair though better, but high cost and initial non-availability limit its usage in the studied Centre. At the hospital level, measures can be put in place towards reducing the incidence of incisional hernia and recurrent hernia.

Adewoyin *et al.* presented their findings on knowledge, attitude and control practices of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) among Youth Corps members in Benin City, Nigeria. Out of the 370 randomly selected participants, only 17.8% had good knowledge despite their high level of awareness. Majority (98.4%) knew their carrier status and were willing to avoid carrier marriages. The authors concluded that most of the participants demonstrated moderate level of public health knowledge regarding SCD in Nigeria, and suggested sustained primary prevention through public education and screening. This becomes necessary since there is relative lack of prenatal diagnostic services, low acceptability of selected abortion among the respondents, sub-optimal care of affected individuals and poor access to haemopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) in our environment.

Other interesting article in this edition is by Afuwape *et al.*, in which the authors reported a rare case of a 25 year old SCD patient with hepatic abscess and was managed by percutaneous laparoscopic trocar drainage. Also, Bello and Odeku described the prevalence of polycystic ovaries amongst women who had gynaecological ultrasound at a private Ultrasound Centre in Ibadan, Nigeria. They found a prevalence of 15.6% (105) out of 671 gynaecological transvaginal Scan (TVS) performed over a year. This shows it is not uncommon in our environment, and there is need for public health intervention at preventing the occurrence of PCOS, and adequate management by gynaecologists.

In the Medical chronicle by Michael O.S. titled "Artemisinin: the journey from natural product to Nobel prize". He described the 2014 Nobel Prize for physiology and Medicine. Williams C. Campbell and Satoshi Omara got one half award for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites and the other half to Youyou Tu for discovery of Artemisinin, an effective therapy against malaria. Artemisinin was isolated from *Artemisia annua*, a local Chinese herb. There is a lesson to be learnt by biomedical scientist in developing countries, including Nigeria, on the need to work and discover drugs from the herbs that are abundant in our continent towards solving some of the prevalent and challenging health problems in the world.

The board of Annals of Ibadan Postgraduate Medicine wishes to appreciate the authors and our reviewers, and hope our readers will enjoy and benefit from the knowledge embedded in this edition.

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