

From renal and cardiovascular disease risk, to reproductive health, increasing violence in Nigeria and use of ultra sound in blunt trauma

In this issue of *African Health sciences* we bring you very interesting papers from Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

The first two papers look at medical conditions that are becoming increasingly common in Africa: renal failure and risk of cardiovascular disease. In their article on chronic renal failure, Alebiosu and colleagues from Nigeria report that the common cause of chronic renal failure in Olabisi teaching hospital included chronic glomerulonephritis, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, and diabetes mellitus. The worrying thing is that the patients present very late and cardiovascular complications and infections brought untold suffering to the patients.

In a somewhat frightening article, Bimenya and colleagues from the Department of Pathology of Makerere University in Uganda report that more than 60% of 'seemingly' healthy public service employees in Kampala are at risk of cardiovascular disease based on plasma cholesterol and related lipid levels. Cause for concern.

Dental caries are a common oral problem in Africa. However the problem has not been adequately studied in children. The paper by Adekoya-Sofowora and colleagues from Ile-Ife in Nigeria is an important addition to the literature on this subject. They found that caries occurred in a little more than 10% of the children, and attendance for a dental check up was very poor amongst children in either public or private schools. In yet another child related article, Ireghu and colleagues found that 25% of all blood samples for children suspected of neonatal septicaemia, had bacterial growth predominantly gram negative bacilli and gram positive cocci with variable resistance to commonly used antibiotics. Other articles in this issue include knowledge of reproductive issues in Nigeria and of sexually transmitted infections in Tanzania; a study of oral fecal parasites and personal hygiene of food handlers in Abeokuta, Nigeria.

There is an interesting article on increasing prevalence of gun shot injuries in Calabar, Nigeria and a United Emirates surgeon has written for us a beautiful article on the use of ultrasound scan of the abdomen in blunt abdominal trauma. Galukande and colleagues from Uganda report on disability associated with low back pain in Kampala Uganda, while Jeremiah's paper on abnormal Hb variants in Port Harcourt, Nigeria gives a rare glimpse of haematology for that part of Africa. Makerere University researchers report on early undergraduate research experience and how it impacts medical research.

We end with a letter from Karachi, Pakistan, which reports two interesting cases of foreign ingestion and their management. This is quite a unique menu, isn't it? Well, get on with it.

Finally I wanted to thank our editors, members of the board and our international consultants, as well as the editorial and administrative assistants, the authors and reviewers, without whose support, this publication would have come to naught.

Scholar One has kindly agreed to support our journal to use their facilities for web based system of submission, editing and reviewing manuscripts online. We hope to pilot this system

from 1st January 2007. This will mark yet another landmark in the history of this journal. We would like you to send your articles online only as this eliminates the need for hard copies of floppy discs.

I wish you very fruitful reading.

James K Tumwine

Editor in Chief

African Health Sciences

References

1. Alebiosu, Olugbenga O. Ayodele, Adigun Abbas, ina Olutoyin A. Chronic renal failure at the Olabisi Onabanjo university teaching hospital, Sagamu Nigeria. C. Olutayo *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 132-138
2. G. S. Bimenya, J. K. Okot, H. Nangosa, S. A. Anguma and W. Byarugaba. Plasma Cholesterol and Related Lipid Levels of seemingly Healthy Public Service Employees in Kampala, Uganda. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 139-144
3. CA Adekoya Sofowora, WO Nasir, AO Oginni, M Taiwo. Dental caries in 12-year-old suburban Nigerian schoolchildren. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 145-150
4. Kenneth C. Ireghu, Olufumilayo Y. Elegba, Iretoiola B. Babaniyi. Bacteriological profile of neonatal septicaemia in a tertiary hospital in Nigeria. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 151-154
5. O.A. Moronkola, M.M. Ojedinan, A. Amosu. Reproductive health knowledge, belief and determinants of contraceptives use among women attending family planning clinics in Ibadan, Nigeria. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 155-159
5. Idowu O.A. and Rowland S.A. Oral fecal parasites and personal hygiene of food handlers in Abeokuta. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 160-164
6. Kennedy D. Mwambete and Zephania Mtaturu. Knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among Secondary School Students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 165-169
7. A.M. Udosen, A.U. Etiuma, G.A. Ugare, O.O. Basse. Gunshot injuries in Calabar, Nigeria: (An indication of increasing societal violence and police brutality). *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 170-172
9. M Galukande, S Muwazi and B D Mugisa. Disability associated with low back pain in Mulago Hospital, Kampala Uganda. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 173-176
10. Zaccheaus Awortu Jeremiah. Abnormal haemoglobin variants, ABO and Rh blood groups among people of African descent using a school population in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 177-181
11. G. Munabi, E. T. Katabira, J Konde-Lule. Early undergraduate research experience at Makerere University Faculty of Medicine: a tool for promoting medical research. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 182-186
12. Mohamed M. Radwan, Fikri M. Abu-Zidan. Focussed Assessment Sonographic Trauma (FAST) and CT scan in blunt abdominal trauma: surgeon's perspective. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 187-190
13. Omer Ashraf, Muhammed Arshad, Atif Afzal. Approach to foreign body ingestion, method determines outcome. *African Health Sciences* 2006; 6(3): 191