

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 7
July 2025

ISSN 0189 - 160X

WAJM

WEST AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

ORIGINALITY AND EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS *AND*
WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



www.wajmed.com



TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	IC
INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS	1F
EDITORIAL NOTE:	
Antioxidant Depletion in Asphyxiated Neonates, Neuropsychiatric Burden in Parkinson's Disease, and Public Health	519
Vulnerabilities: The Need for Proactive Healthcare Delivery – G. E. Erhabor	
LETTER TO THE EDITOR	
Remarks on the Correlation between the EU-TIRADS Score and the Definitive Histology of Thyroid	521
Nodules Operated on in Lomé	
I. Sengul, D. Sengul	
ORIGINAL ARTICLES	
Assessing the Correlation of Protein C and Protein S Levels with Stroke Severity and Functional Outcomes in Adults with Ischaemic Stroke	523
A. O. Idowu, M. B. Fawale, R. A. Bolarinwa, A. A. Sanusi, A. Ogunmodede, S. O. Lawal, O. A. Asifat, A. A. Adebawale, M. A. Komolafe	
Assessment of the Initial Acquisition of <i>Streptococcus mutans</i> in Infants Born to Pregnant Women Attending the Lagos University Teaching Hospital	531
O. Ashaolu, O. O. Orenuga, F. A. Oredugba, F. O. Nwaokorie	
Knowledge, Risk Perception and Prevention against Diphtheria among Caregivers of Children under-fives in Chikun Local Government Area, Kaduna State, Nigeria	542
T. U. Okwute, I. A. Joshua, S. Kabir	
Enzymatic and Non-enzymatic Antioxidants as Related to Immediate Hospital Outcomes in Term Nigerian Babies with Perinatal Asphyxia	552
D. K. Kuti, T. Ogundele, B. P. Kuti, A. O. Oyelami, E.A Adejuyigbe	
Evaluation of Microalbuminuria Level to Determine Diabetic Nephropathy Among Type 2 Diabetic Patients in Zaria, Nigeria	559
A. B. Dogara, I. S. Aliyu, D. S. Mshelia, H. M. Suleiman, F. A. Mahmud, M. G. Abubakar	
Prevalence and Risk Factors of Contrast Induced Nephropathy in Maiduguri, Northeastern Nigeria	566
U. Loskurima, M. M. Sulaiman, M. Lawan, A. Farate, J. Shettima, A. Mamza, A. O. Amali, A. G. Habibu, M. M. Dungus, B. Bunu, A. I. Galtimari, I. K. Chiroma, A. D. Dayar, M. M. Dungus, I. Ummate	
Prevalence of Psychosis Spectrum Symptoms, Association with Quality of Life and Caregiver Burden in Yoruba Nigerians with Parkinson's Disease: A Matched Case Control Study	571
A. Ojagbemi, O. Adediran, H. Oyedapo-Ishola, T. Olojugba, O. Elugbadebo, U. Imo, A. K. Bakare, F. Taiwo	
Rubella IgG Immunity: Spatial Distribution, Euclidean Distance Analysis, Correlates and Predictors among Women of Reproductive Age, Southwest Nigeria	581
K. A. Durowade, O. I. Musa, M. A. Adeniyi, R. B. Mudashiru, T. A. Sanni, A. G. Salaudeen, S. T. Suleiman, O. R. Ilori, D. B. Parakoyi	
RETROSPECTIVE CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY	
Spectrum of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases in a Rheumatology Clinic in Nigeria: A Report of the First 5000 Patients	590
O. O. Adelowo, A. Ibrahim, E. Airenakho, O. Ojo, H. Ahmad, O. Onwualu, H. Aliyu, H. B. Olaosebikan, A. Yerima	
INDEX TO VOLUME 41, NO. 11, 2024	
Author Index	597
Subject Index	598



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Knowledge, Risk Perception and Prevention against Diphtheria among Caregivers of Children under-fives in Chikun Local Government Area, Kaduna State, Nigeria

Connaissances, perception du risque et prévention de la diphtérie chez les aidants d'enfants de moins de cinq ans dans la zone de gouvernement local de Chikun, État de Kaduna, Nigeria

¹T. U. Okwute, ²I. A. Joshua, ³*S. Kabir

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Diphtheria, a re-emerging public health threat, is a vaccine-preventable acute respiratory infection caused by toxigenic strains of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Caregivers of this most vulnerable group must be knowledgeable of the disease, its risk factors, and preventive measures to curb its spread.

OBJECTIVES: To determine the knowledge, risk perception and prevention against diphtheria among caregivers of under fives

METHOD: A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in January 2024. A total of 288 caregivers of children under five years of age were selected using a multi-stage sampling technique, and data were collected using an interviewer-administered questionnaire. The data were analyzed using SPSS version 27, and results were presented in tables. The chi-square test was used to test for association between the socio-demographic variables and dependent variables, and the level of statistical significance was set at a p-value of <0.05.

RESULTS: The median age of the respondents was 32 ± IQR 10.8 years. About half (51.7%) of the respondents had good knowledge of diphtheria, positive perception of the risk of the disease was reported in 77.1% of the respondents and 75.6% had good practice of the preventive measures against the disease. A quarter (26.8%) of the respondent's children took the complete 3 doses of the pentavalent vaccine.

CONCLUSION: Despite positive diphtheria prevention behaviors, the identified gap in pentavalent vaccination coverage indicates a significant need for community immunization programs. Investigating the factors contributing to this low coverage is crucial for developing effective strategies to strengthen immunization programs.

WAJM 2025; 42 (7): 542-551

KEYWORDS: Diphtheria, Knowledge, Risk perception, Prevention, Chikun LGA

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: La diphtérie, une menace réémergente pour la santé publique, est une infection respiratoire aiguë évitable par la vaccination, causée par des souches toxigènes de *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Les aidants de ce groupe le plus vulnérable doivent être informés de la maladie, de ses facteurs de risque et des mesures préventives pour freiner sa propagation.

OBJECTIFS: Déterminer les connaissances, la perception du risque et les pratiques de prévention contre la diphtérie chez les aidants d'enfants de moins de cinq ans.

MÉTHODE: Une étude descriptive transversale a été menée en janvier 2024. Un total de 288 aidants d'enfants de moins de cinq ans a été sélectionné à l'aide d'une technique d'échantillonnage en plusieurs étapes, et les données ont été recueillies à l'aide d'un questionnaire administré par un enquêteur. Les données ont été analysées avec SPSS version 27, et les résultats ont été présentés sous forme de tableaux. Le test du chi carré a été utilisé pour évaluer l'association entre les variables sociodémographiques et les variables dépendantes, avec un seuil de signification statistique fixé à $p < 0,05$.

RÉSULTATS: L'âge médian des répondants était de 32 ± IQR 10,8 ans. Environ la moitié (51,7 %) des répondants avaient une bonne connaissance de la diphtérie, 77,1 % avaient une perception positive du risque de la maladie, et 75,6 % pratiquaient correctement les mesures préventives. Un quart (26,8 %) des enfants des répondants avaient reçu les trois doses complètes du vaccin pentavalent.

CONCLUSION: Malgré des comportements positifs en matière de prévention de la diphtérie, l'écart observé dans la couverture vaccinale pentavalente souligne un besoin important de programmes communautaires de vaccination. Il est essentiel d'examiner les facteurs contribuant à cette faible couverture afin de développer des stratégies efficaces pour renforcer les programmes de vaccination.

WAJM 2025; 42 (7): 542-551

MOTS-CLÉS: Diphtérie, Connaissances, Perception du risque, Prévention, Chikun LGA

¹Department of Community Medicine, College of Medicine, Kaduna State University, Kaduna State, Nigeria

²Department of Community Medicine, College of Health Sciences, Federal University Wukari, Taraba State, Nigeria

³Department of Community Medicine, College of Medical Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria

Corresponding Author: Professor S. Kabir, Department of Community Medicine, College of Medical Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University.

E-mail: kssabitu@yahoo.com

Abbreviations

CHEW: Community Health Extension Workers, **DPT:** Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus vaccine, **IQR:** Interquartile Range, **LGA:** Local Government Area; **NDHS:** Nigeria Demographic & Health Survey, **NPI:** National Programme on Immunization, **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organizations, **RI:** Routine Immunization, **SPSS:** Statistical Package for Social Sciences.