

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 9

September 2022

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



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Perception and Concerns about the Use of Gloves, Facemask, and HIV Discriminatory Attitude of Children attending Dental Clinics in Southern Nigeria

Perception et Préoccupations Concernant l'Utilisation des Gants et du Masque Facial, et Attitude Discriminatoire à l'Égard du VIH chez les Enfants Fréquentant les Cliniques Dentaires du Sud du Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: The use of face masks and gloves can prevent possible cross infection between dental patients and health care practitioners.

AIM: The study identified the perception of paediatric dental patients on the need for dentists to use face masks and gloves; and their attitude towards using the same clinic with paediatric dental patients living with HIV.

METHODS: This was a cross sectional study that recruited 438 children aged 8–15 years attending three paediatric dental clinics located in Southern Nigeria.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: The dependent variables were perception of cross infection control and attitude towards children living with HIV. The independent variables were age, sex, socio-economic status and location of clinic. Chi-square analysis was conducted to determine the associations between the dependent and independent variables. Logistic regression analysis was also conducted to assess the effect size of the associations between the dependent and independent variables. The level of statistical significance was inferred at $P < 0.05$.

RESULTS: Majority of the respondents agreed that it was necessary to wear gloves (98.6%) and facemasks (88.1%) during patients' management. More females 62(28.2%) than males 38(17.4%) assumed gloves were used by dentists to protect themselves from patients' bad breath ($p=0.007$). More children from Benin 97(64.2%) were aware that face masks protect the dentists and the patients ($p=0.004$), and a few believed that it is embarrassing to patients for dentists to wear facemasks ($p=0.001$). More children 102(70.8%) from Ile-Ife perceived that face masks protects from bad breath ($p=0.004$). Children less than 10 years (AOR: 0.85; 95% CI: 0.42–1.70; $p=0.64$), with high socioeconomic status (AOR: 0.90; 95% CI: 0.53–1.52; $p=0.70$) and children aged 10 to 14 years (AOR: 0.85; 95% CI: 0.44–1.63; $p=0.62$), in the middle socioeconomic status (AOR: 0.72; 95% CI: 0.39–1.33; $p=0.30$) were less willing to use the dental clinic alongside children living with HIV.

CONCLUSION: There were sex, and clinic location disparity in the perception and attitude of children towards the use of Personal Protective Equipment and the use of the dental clinic alongside children living with HIV. **WAJM 2022; 39(9): 909–915.**

Keywords: Facemask, Gloves, HIV, Discriminatory, Children.

RÉSUMÉ

INTRODUCTION: L'utilisation de masques faciaux et de gants peut prévenir une éventuelle infection croisée entre les patients dentaires et les praticiens de santé.

OBJECTIF: L'étude a identifié la perception des patients dentaires pédiatriques sur la nécessité pour les dentistes d'utiliser des masques et des gants ; et leur attitude vis-à-vis de l'utilisation de la même clinique avec des patients dentaires pédiatriques vivant avec le VIH.

MÉTHODES: Il s'agit d'une étude transversale qui a recruté 438 enfants âgés de 8 à 15 ans fréquentant trois cliniques dentaires pédiatriques situées dans le sud du Nigeria.

ANALYSE STATISTIQUE: Les variables dépendantes étaient la perception du contrôle des infections croisées et l'attitude envers les enfants vivant avec le VIH. Les variables indépendantes étaient l'âge, le sexe, le statut socio-économique et le lieu de la clinique. Une analyse du chi carré a été réalisée pour déterminer les associations entre les variables dépendantes et indépendantes. Une analyse de régression logistique a également été réalisée pour évaluer la taille de l'effet des associations entre les variables dépendantes et indépendantes. Le niveau de signification statistique a été déduit à $P < 0.05$.

RÉSULTATS: La majorité des répondants étaient d'accord pour dire qu'il était nécessaire de porter des gants (98,6 %) et des masques (88,1 %) pendant la prise en charge des patients. Plus de femmes 62(28,2%) que d'hommes 38(17,4%) ont supposé que les gants étaient utilisés par les dentistes pour se protéger de la mauvaise haleine des patients ($p=0,007$). Plus d'enfants béninois 97(64,2%) savaient que les masques faciaux protègent les dentistes et les patients ($p=0,004$), et quelques-uns pensaient que le port de masques faciaux par les dentistes était gênant pour les patients ($p=0,001$). Les enfants de moins de 10 ans (AOR : 0.85 ; 95% CI : 0.42-1.70 ; $p=0.64$), avec un statut socio-économique élevé (AOR : 0.90 ; 95% CI:0.53-1.52 ; $p=0.70$) et les enfants âgés de 10 à 14 ans (AOR : 0.85 ; IC 95% : 0.44-1.63 ; $p=0.62$), au statut socio-économique moyen (AOR : 0.72 ; IC 95% : 0.39-1.33 ; $p=0.30$) étaient moins disposés à utiliser la clinique dentaire aux côtés des enfants vivant avec le VIH.

CONCLUSION: Il y avait une disparités de sexe et de lieu de clinique dans la perception et l'attitude des enfants vis-à-vis de l'utilisation des équipements de protection individuelle et de l'utilisation de la clinique dentaire avec les enfants vivant avec le VIH. **WAJM 2022; 39(9): 909–915.**

Mots clés: Masque, Gants, VIH, Discriminatoire, Enfants.

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Abbreviations: HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus; PLHIV, People Living with HIV; PPE, Personal Protective Equipment;