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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	1C
INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS	1F
EDITORIAL NOTES – Diagnosis of Invasive Aspergillus Infections, Challenges of Neurocritical Care and Increased Risk of Hearing Loss in Diabetic Patients.....	571
G. E. Erhabor	
– Malaria: Burden and Challenges of Eradication.....	572
I. S. Bello, A. A. Ahmed	
ORIGINAL ARTICLES	
An Evaluation of the Knowledge and Utilization of the Essential Medicines List among Health Professionals in Six Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.....	575
S. A. Ayinbuomwan, A. O. Opadeyi, J. O. Ohaju-Obodo, P. E. Akhiden, S. O. Oghuvwu, P. O. Nwani, B. O. James, A. O. Isah	
Socio-economic and Lifestyle Determinants of Functional Capacity of the Senior Attendees of an Outpatient Clinic in Northern Nigeria: A Cross-Sectional Study	581
A. L. Olawumi, B. A. Grema, A. K. Suleiman, G. C. Michael, Z. A. Umar, F. M. Damagum, A. I. Haruna, Z. Abdulkadir, A. Kwaku	
Hormonal Profile of Women Attending Fertility Clinic in Zaria, North-west, Nigeria.....	590
I. A. Isah, A. A. Akande, I. S. Aliyu, A. G. Adesuyin	
Determinants of Choice of Facility-Based Delivery among Mothers in Kwara State, Nigeria.....	594
M. A. Ijaiya, M. J. Saka, S. A. Aderibigbe, H. O. Raji, A. S. Adeniran, Z. B. Ijaiya, H. A. Ameen, M. M. B. Uthman, B. Kayode, I. Abdulraheem, O. A. Bolarinwa, R. Saidu	
Family Circle and Willingness to Subscribe to Community-based Health Insurance (CBHI) for the Elderly in a Rural Community in South-South Nigeria.....	601
F. Archibong, U. E. Asibong, A. E. Ayuk, A. Atangwho, S. S. Uriah	
Determinants of Choice of Specialty by Resident Doctors: A Multi-Center Based Study in South-West Nigeria.....	607
O. O. Ojewuyi, O. A. Kolawole, A. R. Ojewuyi, A. K. Alao	
Invasive Aspergillosis among Haematological Malignancy Patients in Ghana: A Pilot Study on Prevalence and Antifungal Prophylaxis at the National Referral Hospital.....	613
B. K. Ocansey, B. Otoo, H. Gbadamosi, J. A. Opintan, Y. Dei-Adomakoh, C. Kosmidis, D. W. Denning	
Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma in Childhood: Evidence of a Malfunctioning Oncology Ecosystem: A Case Series from a Low Resource Setting.....	619
U. O. Fakile, A. M. Akinsete, A. O. Joseph, T. O. Fashola, T. A. Oladipo, A. Akinsulie	
Pure Tone Audiometry and Otoacoustic Emission Evaluation of Hearing Loss in Diabetic Patients in a Selected Urban Population of South-West Nigeria.....	623
S. K. Aremu, G. O. Ajani, S. A. Atolani, O. B. Fawole	
Neurocritical Care in Nigeria.....	630
M. A. Komolafe, A. O. Idowu, M. E. Peter, H. W. Oyinlola, A. A. Sanusi, S. A. Balogun, S. O. Olateju, A. A. Adebawale, M. B. Fawale, E. O. Komolafe	
Clinical Profile and Determinants of Loss to Follow-Up in Patients Enrolled in an Urban Antiretroviral Treatment Programme in Northwestern Nigeria.....	634
H. M. Liman, S. H. Tambuwal, A. Abbas, K. J. Awosan, C. E. Udegbonam	
Assessing the Burden of Kidney Disease among Type 2 Diabetic Subjects attending a Semi-Urban Tertiary Health Facility in South-West Nigeria.....	640
R. T. Ikem, A. T. Lawal-Bello, D. O. Soyoye, A. N. Fasanu, B. A. Kolawole	
Assessment of Perceived and Objective Quality of Care received by Insured versus Uninsured Adult Patients Attending a Tertiary Hospital in Nigeria.....	646
O. C. Ekwueme, L. A. Moses, O. G. Ogunfowokan	
Intimate Partner Violence and Risk Factors among Women during the COVID-19 Movement Restriction in Nigeria: An Online Survey.....	654
O. C. Ezechi, G. A. Ohihoin, D. A. Oladele, T. A. Bamidele, T. A. Gbajabiamila, A. O. Salako, Z. A. Musa, E. Ohihoin, O. O. Odubela, C. V. Gab-Okafor, P. M. Ezeobi, A. N. David, N. N. Odunukwe, B. L. Salako	
CASE REPORT	
Penile Fracture following Penile Manipulation during Nocturnal Penile Tumescence – A Case Report.....	663
T. O. Adeleke, A. O. Durodola, M. O. Oyelami, I. A. Okunade, S. I. Oloruntoba	
INDEX TO VOLUME 40, NO. 6, 2023	
Author Index	666
Subject Index	667



Intimate Partner Violence and Risk Factors among Women during the COVID-19 Movement Restriction in Nigeria: An Online Survey

Violence du Partenaire Intime et Facteurs de Risque chez les Femmes Pendant la Restriction du Mouvement COVID-19 au Nigeria : Une Enquête en Ligne

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: The rapid spread of the SARS-CoV-2 infection in the absence of treatment or the presence of vaccines is forcing nations to respond with strong preventive measures ranging from mitigation, containment, and in extreme cases, quarantines. While these measures are a useful measure of infection control, they can lead to significant social, economic, and psychological consequences. This study sought to establish the prevalence and risk factors of intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 movement restriction in Nigeria among girls and women.

METHODS: An online-based questionnaire survey using Google Forms was conducted over four weeks among girls and women aged 15 years and above. Data analysis was performed using SPSS version 20, and logistic regression was used to determine risk factors for IPV experience during the lockdown.

RESULTS: Overall, 32.8% of respondents reported ever experiencing IPV, and 42.5% experienced IPV during the lockdown. Verbal (35.1%) and psychological (24.1%) violence were the commonest forms of violence in the study. There was considerable overlap between the various forms of IPV in the study. Age less than 35 years (aOR = 1.3; CI = 1.2 – 1.4), resident in the northeast region (aOR=1.6; CI=1.4-1.9), alcohol (aOR = 1.3; CI = 1.2 – 1.5) and substance (aOR = 1.5; CI = 1.3 – 1.8) use, average family monthly income < \$100 (aOR = 1.4; CI=1.2 – 1.5), daily or weekly income (aOR = 2.7; CI = 2.5–3.1) had an increased association with IPV during the lockdown, residency in the southeast region had lower odds of experiencing IPV (aOR=0.5; CI = 0.3–0.8).

CONCLUSION: The reported lockdown prevalence of IPV was 42.8%, with verbal and psychological violence being the most prevalent form of IPV. Age less than 35 years, resident in northeast and southeast, use of alcohol or substances, average family monthly income < \$100, and partner being a daily-weekly earner was associated with IPV experience. Policymakers in the future should consider the consequences, including IPV, before issuing such an order. **WAJM 2023; 40(6): 654–662.**

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, COVID-19, Lockdowns, Nigeria, Gender-based violence.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: La propagation rapide de l'infection par le CoV-2 du SRAS en l'absence de traitement ou présence de vaccins oblige les nations à réagir par des mesures préventives fortes allant de l'atténuation à l'endiguement et, dans les cas extrêmes, à la mise en quarantaine. Bien que ces mesures soient utiles pour contrôler l'infection, elles peuvent avoir des conséquences sociales, économiques et psychologiques importantes. Cette étude visait à établir la prévalence et les facteurs de risque de la violence exercée par le partenaire intime au cours de la restriction de mouvement du COVID-19 au Nigeria, chez les filles et les femmes.

MÉTHODES: Une enquête par questionnaire en ligne utilisant google form a été menée pendant quatre semaines auprès de filles et de femmes âgées de 15 ans et plus. L'analyse des données a été réalisée à l'aide de la version 20 de SPSS et une régression logistique a été utilisée pour déterminer les facteurs de risque de violence conjugale pendant la période de restriction.

RÉSULTATS: Dans l'ensemble, 32,8 % des personnes interrogées ont déclaré avoir déjà subi des VPI, et 42,5 % ont subi des VPI pendant l'enfermement. La violence verbale (35,1 %) et la violence psychologique (24,1 %) étaient les formes de violence les plus courantes dans l'étude. Il y avait un chevauchement considérable entre les différentes formes de VPI dans l'étude. L'âge inférieur à 35 ans (aOR=1,3 ; CI= 1,2 - 1,4), la résidence dans la région nord-est (aOR=1,6; CI=1,4-1,9), la consommation d'alcool (aOR=1,3; CI=1,2 - 1,5) et de substances (aOR=1,5 ; CI = 1,3 - 1,8), le revenu mensuel moyen de la famille < 100 \$ (aOR=1,4 ; IC = 1,2 - 1,5), le revenu quotidien ou hebdomadaire (aOR = 2,7 ; IC = 2,5-3,1) était davantage associé à la VPI pendant le lockdown, la résidence dans la région du sud-est avait moins de chances d'être victime de VPI (aOR = 0,5 ; IC = 0,3-0,8).

CONCLUSION: La prévalence de la VPI pendant le lockdown était de 42,8 %, la violence verbale et psychologique étant la forme de VPI la plus répandue. L'âge inférieur à 35 ans, le fait de résider dans le nord-est et le sud-est, la consommation d'alcool ou de substances, le revenu mensuel moyen de la famille inférieur à 100 dollars et le fait que le partenaire gagne sa vie toutes les semaines étaient associés à l'expérience de la VPI. À l'avenir, les décideurs politiques devraient prendre en compte les conséquences, y compris la VPI, avant d'émettre un tel ordre. **WAJM 2023; 40(6): 654–662.**

Mots-clés: Violence entre partenaires intimes, COVID-19, Lockdowns, Nigeria, Violence fondée sur le genre.

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