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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	IC
INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS	1F
EDITORIAL NOTE: <i>Right Ventricular Dysfunction in Hypertension, and the Risk and Remedies of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea among Young Persons - G.E. Erhabor</i>	107
ORIGINAL ARTICLES	
Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Adults – Experience and Challenges in Gastroenterology Practices in Calabar, South-South Nigeria	109
M. Kooffreh-Ada, E. Chukwudike, T. Ugben, A. E. Itam-Eyo, O. Uba-Mgbemena, I. E. Nwa, B. A. Eko, E. I. Effiong, A. J. Omotoso, G. Kajogbola, U. C. Okonkwo, O. E. Ngim, R. Ndoma-Egba	
Burden of Thyroid Dysfunction Among Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Patients in South East Nigeria with Emphasis on its Prevalence and Pattern of Presentation: A Case-Controlled Study	118
Ezeani Ignatius U, Ogbonna Stanley U	
Effect of Motivational Interviewing on Lifestyle Modification among Patients with Hypertension Attending the Family Medicine Clinics of ISTH, Irrua, Nigeria (Milmaph Study) – A Randomised Control Trial Study Protocol	126
T. I. A. Oseni, A. O. Oku, N. E. Udonwa	
A Review of the Current Management of Intracranial Infections of Neurosurgical Importance	135
Eghosa Morgan, Olowo Samuel, Ezemwenghian Morgan, Edward Poluyi	
Functional Disability and Social Support in Older Patients attending Chief Tony Anenih Geriatrics Center (CTAGC) University College Hospital, Ibadan Southwestern, Nigeria	148
M. O. Olawuyi, F. A. Olaniyan, O. O. Olowookere, A. F. Fagbamigbe	
Pattern of Right Ventricular Changes in Patients with Uncomplicated Systemic Hypertension at a Tertiary Centre in Southwest Nigeria	156
R. K. Moronkola, A. C. Mbakwem, A.O. Ajibare, O. T. Ojo, O. M. Oladimeji, C. Amadi, Folasade Daniel, O. Kushimo	
Morbidity Pattern in the Medical Wards of a Nigerian Teaching Hospital During the COVID-19 Pandemic	163
O. G. Oriafio1, A. O. Opadeyi, A. O. Isah	
COVID-19 and Activities of Daily Living Among Primary Health Care Workers in Ekiti State, South-West Nigeria	169
A. Adeniran, O. Q. Bakare, E. O. Oluwole, F. C. Chieme, T. Durojaiye, O.Y. Ojo, B. Olujobi, M. M. Ilesanmi	
Infection Prevention and Control: Baseline Knowledge and Practices of TBAs in rural Kano, northwestern Nigeria	175
T. G. Amole, A. K. Ayaba, F. I. Tsigah-Ahmed, R. I. Jalo, U. Bashir, A. L. Adamu, S. M. Abu, F. M. Mahmud, H. S. Galadanci	
Profile and Correlates of Sleep Quality and Obstructive Sleep Apnoea among Young Persons in Ibadan, Southwestern Nigeria	183
S. Oiwoh, O. Adebayo, K. K. Kanmodi, J. Agbogidi, O. F. Ojo., O. Ogunsuji, A. O. Oyabambi, A.P. Wachinou	
Knowledge of Hepatitis B Vaccine and Vaccination Status of Theatre Personnel at ATBUTH, Bauchi	191
K. J. Bwala, M. M. Muhammed, A. Mohammed, Isa Sajo Mienda, H. U. Liman	
Insights into Breast Cancer Knowledge Among Female Adolescents in Delta State, Nigeria: A School-Based Study	197
M. O. Akpo, E. E. Akpo, D. O. Akpo	
Weight Changes in Breast Cancer Survivors in a Nigerian Hospital: Pattern and Correlates	203
S. A. Folorunso, A. A. Abdus-salam, M. A. Jimoh, B. M. Alabi, A. O. Folorunso, J. A. Obadipe	
Selenium Deficiency as a Risk Factor for Peripartum Cardiomyopathy	209
K. M. Karaye, H. Sa'idu, N. A. Ishaq, S. A. Balarabe, B. G. Ahmed, I. Y. Mohammed, A. G. Habib, MY Henein on behalf of Peripartum Cardiomyopathy in Nigeria (PEACE) Registry Investigators	
Residents-as-teachers: A Needs Assessment of Residents' Teaching Skills in the Clinical Setting using Direct Observation of Teaching	215
O.E. Ayodele, J. Blitz	
INDEX TO VOLUME 41, NO. 2, 2024	
Author Index	226
Subject Index	227



Insights into Breast Cancer Knowledge among Female Adolescents in Delta State, Nigeria: A School-Based Study

Aperçu des Connaissances sur le Cancer du Sein chez les Adoléscentes Femmes dans l'État du Delta, au Nigeria : Une Étude en Milieu Scolaire

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Breast cancer is the most common cancer among female adolescents. It is usually aggressive in this age group with poor prognosis.

OBJECTIVE: This study assessed the general knowledge of breast cancer among secondary school adolescent females in Delta State, Nigeria.

METHODS: A cross-sectional, non-experiment design and a multistage sampling technique was employed in selecting 411 participants from a population of female senior secondary school two (SSS2) students in four public schools in Delta State, Nigeria. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection which was analyzed using SPSS version 23.

RESULTS: The mean age of respondents was 15.65 ± 1.11 years. The mean score for the general breast cancer knowledge was 4.2 ± 1.6 and 3.5 ± 1.9 for knowledge of the risk factors. The findings showed that 9.0%, 37.7%, and 53.3% of the respondents had good, average, and poor general knowledge of breast cancer respectively while 1.9%, 30.6%, and 67.5% had good, average, and poor knowledge of the risk factors and symptoms. There was no significant relationship between the age of respondents and level of knowledge of breast cancer ($X^2 = 2.820, P = 0.24$).

CONCLUSIONS: The respondents had poor knowledge of breast cancer, its risk factors, and symptoms. Educational intervention may help to improve their knowledge level of breast cancer.

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KEYWORDS: Breast cancer, Knowledge, Adolescents, Teenagers, Delta State, Nigeria.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: Le cancer du sein est le cancer le plus courant chez les adolescentes. Il est généralement agressif dans ce groupe d'âge avec un pronostic sombre.

OBJECTIF: Cette étude a évalué les connaissances générales sur le cancer du sein chez les adolescentes du secondaire dans l'État du Delta, au Nigeria.

MÉTHODES: Une conception transversale, non expérimentale, et une technique d'échantillonnage à plusieurs niveaux ont été utilisées pour sélectionner 411 participants parmi une population d'élèves de deuxième année du secondaire (SS2) de sexe féminin dans quatre écoles publiques de l'État du Delta, au Nigeria. Un questionnaire structuré a été utilisé pour la collecte de données, qui a été analysé à l'aide du logiciel SPSS version 23.

RÉSULTATS: L'âge moyen des répondants était de $15,65 \pm 1,11$ ans. Le score moyen pour les connaissances générales sur le cancer du sein était de $4,2 \pm 1,6$ et de $3,5 \pm 1,9$ pour les connaissances sur les facteurs de risque. Les résultats ont montré que 9,0 %, 37,7 % et 53,3 % des répondants avaient respectivement de bonnes, moyennes et mauvaises connaissances générales sur le cancer du sein, tandis que 1,9 %, 30,6 % et 67,5 % avaient respectivement de bonnes, moyennes et mauvaises connaissances des facteurs de risque et des symptômes. Il n'y avait pas de relation significative entre l'âge des répondants et le niveau de connaissance du cancer du sein ($X^2 = 2,820, P = 0,24$).

CONCLUSIONS: Les répondants avaient de faibles connaissances sur le cancer du sein, ses facteurs de risque et ses symptômes. Une intervention éducative pourrait aider à améliorer leur niveau de connaissance du cancer du sein. WAJM 2024; 41 (2): 197- 202.

MOTS-CLÉS: Cancer du sein, Connaissances, Adolescents, Adolescents, État du Delta, Nigeria.

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