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# Unmet Surgical Need among Adults in A Mixed Urban Rural Community in Nigeria: A Survey of 1,993 Adults Using the Sosas Survey Tool

*Besoin Chirurgical Non Satisfait Chez les Adultes dans une Communauté Urbaine et Rurale Mixte au Nigeria: Une Enquête sur 1 993 Adultes Utilisant l'Outil d'Enquête SOSAS*

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### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION:** Community-based prevalence studies are known to be more accurate than hospital-based records. However, such community-based prevalence studies are uncommon in low- and middle-income countries including Nigeria. Allocation of resources and prioritization of health care needs by policy makers require data from such community-based studies to be meaningful and sustainable. This study aims to assess the prevalence of common surgical conditions amongst adults in Nigeria.

**METHODS:** A descriptive cross-sectional community-based study to determine the prevalence of congenital and acquired surgical conditions in adults in a mixed rural-urban area of Lagos was conducted. The study population comprised resident members in the Ikorodu Local Government Area (LGA) of Lagos State. Data was collected using a modified version of the interviewer-administered questionnaire, the Surgeons OverSeas Assessment of Surgical Need (SOSAS) survey tool. Data was analysed using the REDCap analytic tool.

**RESULTS:** Eight hundred and fifty-six households were surveyed with a yield of 1,992 adults. There were 95 adults who complained of surgical conditions giving a prevalence rate of 5%. Vast majority of reported conditions were acquired deformities (n=94) while only 1 congenital deformity was reported. Others included breast lumps, anterior neck swelling, and groin swellings.

**CONCLUSION:** The most common surgical complaints in our setting among adults were acquired conditions of the extremities and open wounds/sores. With an estimated population of 90 million adults and approximately 1,200 orthopaedic and general surgeons respectively, the surgeon-to-affected population ratio is 1:10,000. There is a large gap to be filled in terms of surgical manpower development.

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**KEYWORDS:** Prevalence, Disease burden, Surgery, Wounds

### RÉSUMÉ

**INTRODUCTION:** Les études de prévalence communautaires sont connues pour être plus précises que les dossiers hospitaliers. Cependant, de telles études de prévalence communautaires sont rares dans les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire, y compris le Nigeria. L'allocation des ressources et la priorisation des besoins de santé par les décideurs nécessitent des données issues de telles études communautaires pour être significatives et durables. Cette étude vise à évaluer la prévalence des affections chirurgicales courantes chez les adultes au Nigeria.

**MÉTHODES:** Une étude descriptive transversale basée sur la communauté pour déterminer la prévalence des conditions chirurgicales congénitales et acquises chez les adultes dans une zone rurale-urbaine mixte de Lagos a été menée. La population étudiée comprenait des membres résidents de la zone de gouvernement local (LGA) d'Ikorodu, dans l'État de Lagos. Les données ont été collectées à l'aide d'une version modifiée du questionnaire administré par un enquêteur, l'outil d'enquête Surgeons OverSeas Assessment of Surgical Need (SOSAS). Les données ont été analysées à l'aide de l'outil analytique REDCap.

**RÉSULTATS:** Huit cent cinquante-six ménages ont été enquêtés, ce qui a donné 1 992 adultes. Quarante-cinq adultes se sont plaints de conditions chirurgicales, donnant un taux de prévalence de 5 %. La grande majorité des conditions rapportées étaient des déformations acquises (n=94) tandis qu'une seule déformation congénitale a été signalée. Les autres incluaient des nodules mammaires, des gonflements antérieurs du cou et des gonflements inguinaux.

**CONCLUSION:** Les plaintes chirurgicales les plus courantes dans notre cadre parmi les adultes étaient des conditions acquises des extrémités et des plaies ouvertes/ulcères. Avec une population estimée à 90 millions d'adultes et environ 1 200 chirurgiens orthopédiques et généralistes respectivement, le ratio chirurgien-population affectée est de 1:10,000. Il y a un grand écart à combler en termes de développement de la main-d'œuvre chirurgicale.

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**MOTS CLÉS:** Prévalence, Charge de morbidité, Chirurgie, Plaies

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**Abbreviations:** SOSAS: Surgeons OverSeas Assessment of Surgical Needs; LMIC: Low and Middle-Income Countries; LGA: Local Government Area; REDCap: Research Electronic Data Capture System