

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 1
January 2022

ISSN 0189 - 160X

WAJMJ

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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Risk Factors of Skin Diseases among School Children in South Eastern Communities in Nigeria

Facteurs de Risque des Maladies de la Peau chez les Écoliers des Communautés du Sud-Est du Pays du Sud-Est du Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Skin disorders frequently seen among primary school children are common causes of morbidity. Determining the risk factors of skin diseases, will enhance a better understanding of skin health and prevent skin diseases in school children.

AIM: To determine the common risk factors of skin diseases among primary school children in Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State.

METHODS: A descriptive cross-sectional study carried out over a 4-month period among pupils of public and private primary schools. Diagnosis of skin diseases was based on clinical findings as well as laboratory investigations where indicated. A pre-tested, self-administered, close ended questionnaire was used to ascertain the risk factors of skin diseases.

RESULTS: Eight hundred and forty-seven (847) and seven hundred and thirteen (713) subjects were recruited from public and private schools respectively. Fifty-six percent of the subjects were males. The mean age of the study participants was 8.74 ± 2.08 years. The overall prevalence of skin diseases was 40.2%. Using a multivariate logistic regression, gender, number of people per room, frequency of bathing per week and source of water were found to be significant risk factors for skin diseases.

CONCLUSION: Socio-demographic factors and living conditions are significant risk factors of skin diseases. Standard hygienic practices by school children and their parents/caregivers will help to reduce the high prevalence of skin diseases in our environment. **WAJM 2022; 39(1): 76–82.**

Keywords: Risk factors, skin diseases, schools, child.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: Les troubles cutanés fréquemment observés chez les enfants des écoles primaires sont des causes courantes de morbidité. Déterminer les facteurs de risque des maladies de la peau, permettra de mieux meilleure compréhension de la santé de la peau et de prévenir les maladies les enfants scolarisés.

OBJECTIF: Déterminer les facteurs de risque communs des maladies cutanées chez les élèves de l'école primaire de la zone de Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State.

MÉTHODES: Étude descriptive transversale menée pendant une période de 4 mois auprès d'élèves d'écoles primaires publiques et privées. Le diagnostic des maladies de la peau était fondé sur les cliniques ainsi que sur des examens de laboratoire, le cas échéant.

Un questionnaire pré-testé, auto-administré et fermé a été utilisé pour déterminer les facteurs de risque des maladies de la peau a été utilisé pour déterminer les facteurs de risque des maladies de la peau.

RÉSULTATS: Huit cent quarante-sept (847) et sept cent treize (713) personnes ont été recrutés respectivement dans des écoles publiques et privées respectivement. Cinquante-six pour cent des sujets étaient de sexe masculin. L'âge moyen des participants à l'étude était de $8,74 \pm 2,08$ ans. La prévalence globale des maladies de la peau était de 40,2 %. En utilisant une régression logistique multivariée, le sexe, le nombre de personnes par pièce, la fréquence des bains par semaine et la source d'eau se sont avérés être des facteurs de risque significatifs de maladies de la peau.

CONCLUSION: Les facteurs sociodémographiques et les conditions de vie sont des facteurs de risque significatifs de maladies de la peau. Les pratiques hygiéniques normalisées des écoliers et de leurs parents ou parents/soignants contribueront à réduire la prévalence élevée des maladies de la peau dans notre environnement. **WAJM 2022; 39(1): 76–82.**

Mots clés: Facteurs de risque, maladies de la peau, écoles, enfant, conditions.

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