

Editorial

Infections: HIV and related-diseases, anti-microbial resistance and neglected tropical diseases

David Mukunya

PhD Candidate, Centre for International Health, University of Bergen, Norway.

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.2>

Cite as: Mukunya D. Infections: HIV and related-diseases, anti-microbial resistance and neglected tropical diseases. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2): IV-V. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.2>

In this infectious disease section of the June issue of *African Health Sciences*, we begin with papers on ‘the usual suspect’ HIV; which contributes a significant portion of disability adjusted life years lost in low and middle-income countries. Howlett reviews HIV neurological disorders in Africa, and characterizes them based on their aetiology into: HIV infection, auto immune, and opportunistic process related disorders¹. Nigerian authors report on adrenocortical deficiency² and Hepatitis B virus³, among HIV patients. Viruses have unexpected effects, which are often ignored by clinicians. Bal et al report on reduced pulmonary function among participants with high Hepatitis C viremia⁴. Ugandan authors classify and describe chronic pain among HIV patients. They report that 1/5th of all HIV patients had chronic pain and this was associated with poor quality of life⁵.

From HIV and related diseases, we turn to anti-microbial resistance:

Anti-microbial resistance is a growing threat world wide, and in this issue, we offer some insight into the subject in the Africa context. Tunisian authors report high prevalence of Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL) producing bacteria⁶ and on carbapenem resistance mechanisms in *Klebsiella Pneumoniae* isolates⁷. Crossing over to gram-positive bacteria, Nigerian authors⁸ report on the phenotypes of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. Out of Africa, Chinese authors report on multidrug resistant bacteria among patients re-admitted with acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). They found that the commonest potentially pathogenic organism isolated from patients with acute exacerbation of COPD as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*⁹. Saleh et al give us insight into how we can tackle *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*¹⁰. Ugandan authors report that 9% of culture

confirmed TB patients developed recurrent TB, and they determined predictors of recurrence¹¹.

Neglected tropical diseases:

Nigerian authors report that Dengue is a growing public health problem in their country¹², and that levels of stigma against Buruli ulcer disease are high¹³. On the surgical front, Salako et al report that 10% of patients who underwent prostatectomy in a Nigerian Teaching Hospital suffered from a surgical site infection¹⁴, while Omorogiuwa et al report that *Cymbopogon citratus Stapf* leaf is a potential treatment of male reproductive related infections¹⁵.

Gastrointestinal infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in under-5 year olds. One of the greatest public health advances in the last century was the development of vaccines. However the failure to maintain a cold chain renders the efficacy of most vaccines uncertain. Osaretin et al report that a monovalent rotavirus vaccine remained potent after exposure to different temperatures in South Africa¹⁶, which is good news. Subbaram et al recommend immune magnetic polymerase chain reaction for the molecular identification of diarrheal *Aeromonas* from clinical specimens¹⁷. Babatola et al report that one third of asymptomatic under-five children at a tertiary hospital in South West Nigeria had anti *H. Pylori* Ig G in their blood; and they determine the risk factors for this sero-positivity¹⁸, this is scary news given that *H. Pylori* is a group 1 carcinogen.

Enjoy the section!

References

1. Howlett WP. Neurological disorders in HIV in Africa: a review. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 1953-1977. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.19>

2. Akase IE, Habib AG, Bakari AG, Muhammad H, Geza-wa ID. The prevalence and clinical profile of adrenocortical deficiency among HIV infected persons in Northern Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 1947-1952. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.19>
3. Omatola CA, Idofe J, Okolo M-LO, Adejo PO, Maina MM, Oyiguh JA. Seroprevalence of HBV among people living with HIV in Anyigba, Kogi State, Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 1938-1946. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.17>
4. Bal Tayibe et al. The impact of hepatitis C viremia status on lung functions in chronic hepatitis c patients. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 1988-1992. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.21>
5. Mwesiga EK, Kaddumukasa M, Mugenyi L, Nakasujja N. Classification and description of chronic pain among HIV positive patients in Uganda. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 1978-1987. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.20>
6. Mechergui A, Achour W, Mathlouthi S, Hassen AB. Prevalence of infectious multi-drug resistant bacteria isolated from immuno compromised patients in Tunisia. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2021-2025. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.25>
7. Messaoudi A, Mansour W, Jaidane N, Chaouch C, Boujaâfar N, Bouallègue O. Epidemiology of resistance and phenotypic characterization of carbapenem resistance mechanisms in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolates at Sahloul University Hospital-Sousse, Tunisia. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2008-2020. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.24>
8. Ariom TO, Iroha IR, Moses IB, Iroha CS, Ude UI, Kalu AC. Detection and phenotypic characterization of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus from clinical and community samples in abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2026-2035. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.26>
9. Lin J, He S-S, Xu Y-Z, Li H-Y, Wu X-M, Feng J-X. Bacterial etiology in early re-admission patients with acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2073-2081. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.31>
10. Saleh MM, Sadeq RA, Abdel Latif HK, Abbas HA, Askoura M. Zinc oxide nanoparticles inhibits quorum sensing and virulence in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2043-2055. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.28>
11. Muzanyi G, Mulumba Y, Mubiri P, Mayanja H, Johnson JL, Mupere E. Predictors of recurrent TB in sputum smear and culture positive adults: a prospective cohort study. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2091-2099. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.33>
12. Otu A, Ebenso B, Etokidem A, Chukwuekezie O. Dengue fever – an update review and implications for Nigeria, and similar countries. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2000-2007. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.23>
13. Nwafor CC, Meka A, Chukwu JN, Ekeke N, Alphonsus C, Mbah O, Madichie NO, Aduh U, Ogbeifo M, IseOluwa-Adelokiki BO, Edochie JE, Ushaka J, Ukwaja KN. Assessment of community knowledge, attitude, and stigma of Buruli ulcer disease in Southern Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2100-2111. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.34>
14. Salako AA, Badmus TA, Onyia CU, Rotimi AD, Adejare IE, Lawal AO, Onyeze CI, Ndegbu CU. An audit of surgical site infection following open prostatectomy in a Nigerian Teaching Hospital. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2068-2072. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.30>
15. Erhabor JO, Erhabor RC, Idu M-D. In vitro antibacterial and cytogenotoxicological properties of the aqueous extract of *Cymbopogon citratus* Stapf (DC) leaf. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2056-2067. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.29>
16. Asowata OE, Ashiru OT, Sturm AW, Moodley P. Stability of a monovalent rotavirus vaccine after exposure to different temperatures observed in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 1993-1999. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.22>
17. Subbaram K, Gatashah MK, Al Azzam KM, Kannan H. Molecular identification of diarrheal *Aeromonas* using immunomagnetic polymerase chain reaction (IM-PCR) technique: a comparative study with conventional culture method. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2036-2042. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.27>
18. Babatola AO, Akinbami FO, Adeodu OO, Ojo TO, Efere MO, Olatunya OS. Seroprevalence and determinants of *Helicobacter pylori* infection among asymptomatic under-five children at a Tertiary Hospital in the South-Western region of Nigeria. *Afri Health Sci.* 2019;19(2). 2082-2090. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ahs.v19i2.32>