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The neglect of commercial probiotics in Nigeria: Medico-legal implications

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The science of probiotics is increasingly being embraced across the globe and commercially available types are used as pharmaceutical drug substitutes. However, in the sub-Saharan African context there seems to be little regulatory mechanisms to properly appraise the safety, posology and efficacy of commercial probiotics vis-a-vis the associated health claims. Against this background, this research paper examines the Nigerian scenario. Specifically, the paper evaluates the activities of NAFDAC (National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control) in relation to the importation and bio-assessment of probiotics entering the Nigerian pharmaceutical market. In this regards, available data suggests a poor level of monitoring and awareness. Therefore, the paper discusses the medico-legal and health implications of this development and the need for a mitigating policy.

Biography

Olusegun Yinka Aborode is a Legal Practitioner based in Nigeria. He has completed his LLB from University of Ibadan.

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