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Facility assessment and HIV services delivery among patients in Bonny, South-south Nigeria

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Having being adjudged the second most important parasitic disease worldwide after malaria which is of higher morbidity, schistosomiasis is now widely and very well recognized as a highly devastating water-based helminth infection affecting millions of lives, especially children globally. This study was designed to estimate and add to body of knowledge the current status of prevalence and intensity of urinary schistosomiasis among primary school children residing along River Niger Bank, Lokoja. Questionnaires were used to collect vital demographic variables for investigation of the prevalence and risk factors of the infection. Sixty (60) urine

samples collected for laboratory assessment were transported to Salem University Advanced Microbiology Laboratory, prepared using centrifugation technique and examined microscopically. The prevalence and intensity of infection among age groups and schools varied. The highest percentage affected (20.0%) was observed within age group 5-8 years, followed by age group 9-12 (13.3%) and the lowest prevalence of (8.3%) in age group 13-15 years. The infection rate was significantly higher among males (26.6%) than among females (15%). Infection was equally higher (20.0%) among students whose normal source of drinking water is stream, followed by those whose source of drinking water is well (11.6%) and the least among those using tap water (10.0%). While moderate intensity and high prevalence of the infection (26.6%) were recorded against St. Luke, UBE had light intensity and a lower prevalence (15.0%) of the infection. Overall however, the population area has moderate to heavy intensity

of schistosomiasis. Lack of prompt diagnosis, inadequate knowledge on the causes of schistosomiasis, unsuitable water supply and exposure to water bodies may be the likely predisposing factors responsible for the prevalence rate recorded in the study area.

Biography

Akoma Onyekachi is currently a PhD (in view) student of University of Nigeria Nsukka. He has got some years of experience in lecturing, with research interest in Medical/ Public Health Microbiology and Molecular Epidemiology. Akoma supervises students' project works and has made meaningful contributions in some relevant research articles in learned international scientific journals. He has also tried to advance his career through conference and workshop attendance. Adetuyi, OA is a graduate of Salem University, Lokoja in the Biosciences Department (Microbiology). Eze, CC is a technologist with the Department of Microbiology, University of Nigeria Nsukka.

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