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Knowledge of Environmental and Genetic Risk Factors for Cleft Lip and Palate among Dwellers of a Suburban Community in Nigeria

Connaissance des Facteurs de Risque Environnementaux et Génétiques de la Fente Labiale et Palatine chez les Habitants d'une Communauté de Banlieue au Nigéria

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Cleft lip and/or cleft palate (CLP) is a prevalent condition with a multifactorial etiology. An understanding of its etiologic factors discourages harmful habits and promotes societal acceptability.

OBJECTIVES: To assess the knowledge of environmental and genetic risk factors of CLP and determine its effect on predisposing social habits in a suburban community in Nigeria.

METHODS: This was a descriptive cross-sectional study conducted at Ifo Local Government Area (LGA), Ogun state, Nigeria. Participants were adult residents of Ifo L.G.A. Knowledge of CLP categorized into description, environmental risk factors and genetic factors were assessed using a well structured interviewer administered questionnaire.

RESULTS: A total of 300 adults (104 males; 196 females) aged 44.3 ± 13.17 years with predominantly secondary level education participated in the study. Majority of participants (89.7%) had low overall knowledge of CLP including low knowledge on description of CLP (81.7%), environmental factors of CLP (81.3%), and genetic factors of CLP (93.7%). High level of education was significantly associated with increased knowledge on description of CLP ($P < 0.05$). No other significant association was noted between socio-demographic factors and knowledge of CLP. Decreased smoking history was associated with high knowledge on description of CLP ($P = 0.043$).

CONCLUSION: Majority of the population had low knowledge of CLP which was to an extent influenced by their lack of high level of education. This low knowledge was significantly associated with increased practices of social habits such as cigarette smoking that predispose unborn children to CLP. The low knowledge of CLP shown in this study highlights the need for increased community education and health promotion to encourage avoidance of risk factors that predispose to the condition and promote societal acceptability and quest for treatment of the condition. **WAJM 2022; 39(5): 479–485.**

Keywords: Knowledge, risk factors, cleft lip and palate, sub-urban Nigeria.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: La fente labiale et/ou la fente palatine (CLP) sont répandues condition avec une étiologie multifactorielle. Une compréhension de son les facteurs étiologiques découragent les habitudes néfastes et favorisent la société acceptabilité.

OBJECTIFS: Évaluer la connaissance de l'environnement et de la génétique facteurs de risque de CLP et déterminer son effet sur les réseaux sociaux prédisposants habitudes dans une communauté de banlieue au Nigeria.

MÉTHODES: Il s'agissait d'une étude transversale descriptive menée à Ifo Local Government Area (LGA), État d'Ogun, Nigéria. Participants étaient des résidents adultes d'Ifo L.G.A. Connaissance du CLP catégorisée dans la description, les facteurs de risque environnement aux et les facteurs génétiques étaient évalué à l'aide d'un intervieweur bien structuré administré questionnaire.

RÉSULTATS: Un total de 300 adultes (104 hommes; 196 femmes) âgés de 44,3 ans+ 13,17 ans avec un enseignement principalement secondaire ont participé à l'étude. La majorité des participants (89,7 %) avaient un faible taux connaissance globale du CLP, y compris faible connaissance de la description de CLP (81,7%), facteurs environnement aux de CLP (81,3%) et génétique(93,7 %). Le niveau d'éducation élevé était significatif associé à une connaissance accrue de la description du CLP ($P < 0.05$). Aucune autre association significative n'a été notée entre les facteurs sociodémographiques et la connaissance de la CLP. Diminution du tabagisme l'histoire était associée à une grande connaissance de la description du CLP ($P = 0,043$).

CONCLUSION: La majorité de la population avait une faible connaissance du CLP qui a été dans une certaine mesure influencée par leur manque de niveau élevé de éducation. Cette faible connaissance était significativement associée à des pratiques accrues d'habitudes sociales telles que le tabagisme qui prédisposer les enfants à naître à la CLP. La faible connaissance du CLP montrée dans cette étude souligne la nécessité d'une éducation communautaire accrue et la promotion de la santé pour encourager l'évitement des facteurs de risque qui prédisposer à la condition et promouvoir l'acceptabilité sociale et quête de traitement de la maladie. **WAJM 2022; 39(5): 479–485.**

Mots-clés: Connaissances, facteurs de risque, fente labiale et palatine, suburbaine Nigéria.

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Abbreviations: CLP, Cleft Lip and/or Palate.