

**Knowledge, awareness on rabies and attitude to dog bite among students and residents at the university of Ibadan, Nigeria**

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Globally, about 55,000 human deaths are recorded yearly of which 24,000 are cases from Africa. Past studies have shown that effective rabies education and regular vaccination of dogs can help prevent new infection. This study aimed at assessing the knowledge and awareness on rabies and attitude to dog bite among students and residents at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Review of University hospital records for dog bite cases from 2005 to 2010 was done. A structured questionnaire was used to obtain information on demography, dog bite history, management and vaccination of dogs, awareness and knowledge of rabies from 326 purposively sampled students and residents. Incomplete entries were removed and the remaining 315 entries analyzed using Epi-Info 3.5.1 version. Knowledge on rabies was scored using appropriate grade point. Statistical significance ( $P < 0.05$ ) was determined using chi square test at 95% confidence interval. Review of hospital record revealed a total of 10 dog bite cases were reported from 2005 to 2010. Eighty seven dog bite cases were reported among respondents and their family members; most (46%) reported to have had bite on the legs. Most (67%) of the dog bite victims were between the ages of 13-18 years. Of 315 respondents, 79% were aware of rabies. Majority (43%) reported to have heard from friends. There is a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the awareness level among various age groups, educational levels, dog ownership and regular vaccination of dogs. There is also a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) among the residents and various categories of students on their knowledge of etiology, mode of transmission, clinical signs, prevention of rabies and what to do in case of a bite. Majority of the respondents have poor knowledge on rabies despite high awareness level. Dog bite cases are under reported and friends can serve as good source of information dissemination.