

INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION IN CHILDHOOD CAUSED BY INTUSSUSCEPTION: EXPERIENCE AT A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA

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Background of Study: Intestinal obstruction in children is the commonest cause of acute abdominal conditions in this age group. Intussusception represents the commonest cause of intestinal obstruction in children aged between 3 months and 3 years with a peak age of incidence at 6 months. It presents with sudden onset of abdominal pain, projectile vomiting, passage of red currant jelly stool and abdominal distension. The aetiology of intussusception is idiopathic, as no single aetiological agent is responsible for its occurrence. However, several risk factors such as weaning from breast feeding, introduction of high protein-containing food supplements, recurrent upper respiratory tract infections and viral infections of the gastrointestinal tract had been identified. The diagnosis of intussusception is based on the unique clinical presentation from history, findings on physical examination and results of relevant investigations.

Aim of study: To determine the prevalence of intussusception amongst Children managed for intestinal obstruction at Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital Sagamu.

Study design: Case-controlled study

Setting: Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Methods: Cases of intestinal obstruction in children aged between 0-15 years were retrospectively observed between July 2016 and June 2023 (a 7-year period). Intestinal obstruction cases caused by intussusception were identified and enrolled into the study. The obtained results would be analysed and reported in numbers, percentages, tables, graphs and bar diagrams.

Results: Case records of 870 children managed for intestinal obstruction during the study period were accessed. A total of 452 cases (51%) of intussusception were responsible for intestinal obstruction during the study period.

Conclusion: Intussusception was the commonest cause of intestinal obstruction amongst children who presented with intestinal obstruction during the study period.

Keywords: Intestinal obstruction, prevalence, intussusception, Tertiary, Hospital.

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