Reviewer's report

Title: The Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Nigerian Surgery Trainees to HIV-infected persons and AIDS patients

Authors:

Clement A Adebamowo (cadebamo@hsph.harvard.edu)
Emma R Ezeome (ezeome@infoweb.abs.net)
Johnson A Ajuwon (uchmed@skannet.com)
Temidayo O Ogundiran (toogundiran@yahoo.co.uk)

Version: 1 Date: 20 Jul 2002

Reviewer: Dr Joerg Klewer FRIPH

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

It is an interesting paper, because it investigates a sample of medical doctors. This is very important, because studies related to attitudes and knowledge about HIV on medical doctors are very rare. Normally it is done on medical students or nursing staff. By this, the paper enlarges the knowledge about this topic and reflects the situation in the year 1997, at the beginning of the HIV epidemic in Nigeria.

Limitations:

The paper is too long and the authors should shorten it. Data already presented in tables should not be included additionally in the text. Information about percentages are sufficient, there is no need for additional numbers (in the tables and in the text).

In some tables the line-numbers should be removed.

The references do not include papers on health care workers from Nigeria or other African studies (e.g. Najem et al., Essien et al.). This would be important to compare the results with other national findings.

General information about the HIV epidemic in Africa should be taken from UNAIDS and not from internet-sources (free download of facts sheets from www.unaids.org). Detailed information about the HIV-prevalence in Nigeria are missing.

The authors do not explain how they validated the questionnaire (experts, other questionnaires). The do not explain if they used open or closed questions and if the respondents had to write down the answers or just to mark preformed answers.

No information is given about the general population of surgical trainees in Nigeria. Are they registered at the medical board ? From where did the authors get the addresses of all surgical trainees ?
The first chapter of the discussion should be removed or included in the introduction. In the discussion the findings are not compared with results from other studies. It is more or less a general discussion about the problems in the Nigerian health care system and the need for guidelines to treat HIV patients. Therefore the discussion requires revision, leading to clear conclusions.

The English is acceptable, but some grammatical problems require editing.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.