



Hemophilia in developing countries: an analysis of the first data in Cameroon.



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Objectives:

In sub-Saharan Africa, hemophilia remains a huge problem mainly because of ignorance of the disease, limited screening capabilities and access to treatment. Strategic plan for managing hemophilia should start with the mastery of local characteristics of the disease. This review aims to discuss the characteristics of Cameroonian patients living with hemophilia.

Results:

The mean age of the patients was between 14 and 16.2 years. All hemophiliacs reported by the studies were male. For most patients, the frequency of bleeding episodes ranged from 2-15 bleeds per year. Chronic joint complications were found in almost all patients in the 2010 study. Hemophilia A was more common than B, representing 88.4% and 85.4% in 2008 and 2010 respectively. All the 41 patients reported in the study of 2010 were tested negative for HIV in spite of history of transfusions.

Conclusions:

Some features of hemophilia in Cameroon are different from those of other African countries. However, as in many countries, the biggest challenge in long term is the constant availability of clotting factors concentrates for patients.

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Methods:

A retrospective study has been done on the data of four main reported studies between 1972 and 2010 at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé I. Epidemiological, clinical and biological features of PLWH in Cameroon has been analyzed.

Table 1: Characteristics of hemophilia in Cameroon

Epidemiological characteristics	Studies and number of cases				
	Chendjou D (1972) n=9	Edzoa EF (2001) n=28	Nda M (2008) n=26	Tiga F (2010) n=41	
Mean age (years)	16	15.4	14	16.2	
Age group (n)	0-4 years	2	6	4	5
	5-9 years	5	11	6	10
	10-14 years	3	5	6	6
	15-19 years	1	4	4	6
	≥20 years	0	2	6	14
Gender (n)	Male	9	28	26	40
	Female	0	0	0	1
Origin (n)	Urban	9	22	21	33
	Rural	0	6	5	8
Education level (n)	None	/	/	/	4
	Primary	/	/	/	15
	Secondary	/	/	/	17
	University	/	/	/	5
Type of hemophilia (n)	A	8	20	23	35
	B	1	8	3	16
Severity (n)	Mild	0	1	0	5
	Moderate	0	7	9	14
	Severe	9	20	17	22

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