A Retrospective Comparative Analysis of Use and Rate of Compliance of Hydroxyurea in Sickle Cell Disease Patients at University of Maryland and Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital/Kaduna State University Kaduna, Nigeria: A Global Health Prospective of Sickle Cell Disease Care

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#### **PUBLISHED ABSTRACT**

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, middle east and subcontinent region bear the greatest burden of SCD-associated morbidity and mortality. Hydroxyurea (HU) reduces up to 50% of hospitalizations and blood transfusion rate associated with SCD. HU is being used routinely in high-income countries but still remains a challenge in resource-limited countries. HU is a cost-effective intervention so learning underlying factors associated with HU use can address this problem. There is not any study that compares developing and developed country regarding HU use. There is huge disparity between USA and Nigeria regarding mortality. Hence this study identified factors associated with disparity of care, morbidity & mortality.

**Methods:** Charts of 75 SCD patients treated at UMMC from January 2019 to January 2020 were reviewed. Data of 18 patients who met the eligibility criteria were extracted and charts of 30 patients being treated at Nigerian hospital from same time interval were reviewed and extracted. To identify disparity of care, and difference in morbidity and mortality rate, data were collected regarding heart failure, pain crisis, hospitalization, stroke, HU compliance and acute chest syndrome (ACS).

**Results:** Factors associated with low compliance in USA is treatment none-adherence and insurance issues, whereas in the Nigerian hospital is financial constraints and hydroxyurea availability. Regarding disparity of care, none of the Nigerian patients had any Hemoglobin F, Hemoglobin S percentage documentation, because a diagnosis of SCD is based on alkaline electrophoresis which does not quantify the hemoglobin type. Therefore, the phenotype in Nigerian cohort were not identified. In USA cohort all the patients had HbF percentage tested by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) prior to starting HU. There is no significant difference in compliance rate ((Nig 67% VS US 78% P value 0.52). Three patients in Nigerian cohort died prior to age of 35 but none in USA cohort. Fisher exact and chi square tests were used for analysis. P value of all the parameters is >0.05 except the ACS which is 0.0036. Hence findings are not statistically significant except ACS (75% US VS 18% P 0.0036). CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Mohammad Imran, MD, MPH Bronxcare Hospital, Bronx, NY, US University of Maryland, US mohammad.imran@umaryland.edu

KEYWORDS: Global Health Prospective of Sickle Cell Disease and disparity in care

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**Conclusion:** Sample size is small. Hence it is difficult to make conclusion but, data is showing that there is disparity in terms of mortality, morbidity, health care services (e.g., lab test, blood transfusion resources, screening test) and use of HU between these two counties.

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# **COMPETING INTERESTS**

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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