

Accessibility of medications by chronically ill elderly patients: a cross-sectional assessment of the WHO recommended universal health coverage among a geriatric population in Nigeria



Amara Frances Chizoba. MPH, BNSc, RPHN

MD; Mission to Elderlies Projects Nigeria

Program specialist/ Researcher; Center for Clinical care and clinical Research

Nigeria



Background

- Universal health coverage (UHC) means all people receive quality health services and protected from health threats without financial hardship. (WHO 2010).
- >50% of world's population still do not have UHC
- Key assessment questions for UHC is “can you afford to get medicine and other products that you need?”

Background...

- For UHC to be achieved, health needs of older people needs to be considered.
- Hypertension, diabetes, arthritis and eye defects are common chronic illnesses among older populations, requiring accessibility of medication to prevent complications.

Objective

- We aimed to assess UHC among a geriatric in Nigeria

Method...

Design and area of study

- Using a cross-sectional study design, enrolment of elderly persons into study was done in community projects in three communities across Nigeria.



Method...

Sampling method

- Using systematic random sampling technique, elderly persons meeting criteria of age ≥ 55 years and having at least 1 reported common chronic medical conditions (hypertension, arthritis and/or diabetes) were selected.

Method...

Data collection

- An in-depth interview using structured interview guide was conducted among participants.
- Participants demographics were recorded along with self reported chronic medical condition.



Method...

Data collection (2)

- Key questions on accessibility of medication and UHC were
 - “Can you always afford the medicine that you need for your chronic medical condition?” and
 - “Are you under National health insurance scheme that aids health access?”

Method...

Data analysis

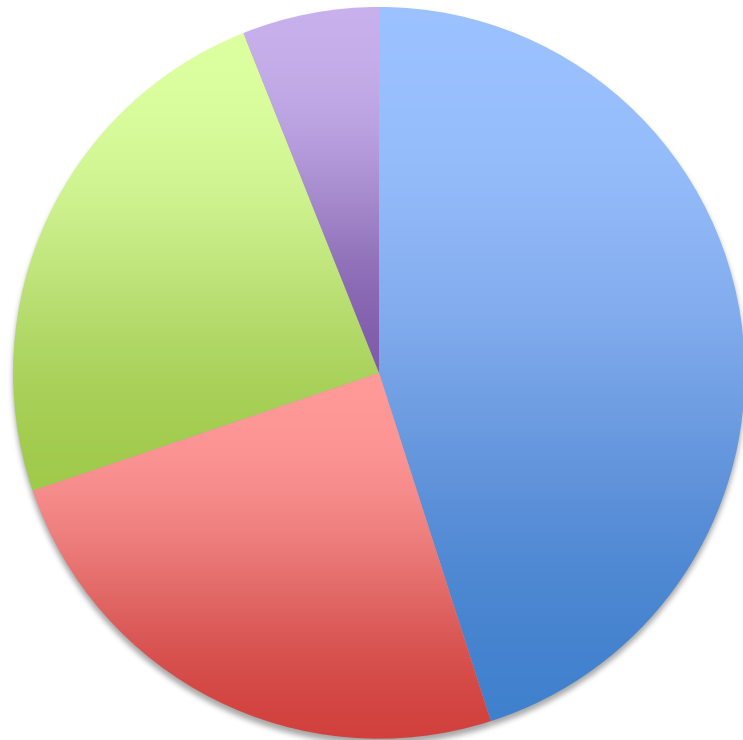
- Data was analysed on SPSS version 20, using frequency distribution table and comparing demographic characteristics and assessment outcome of respondents.

Result

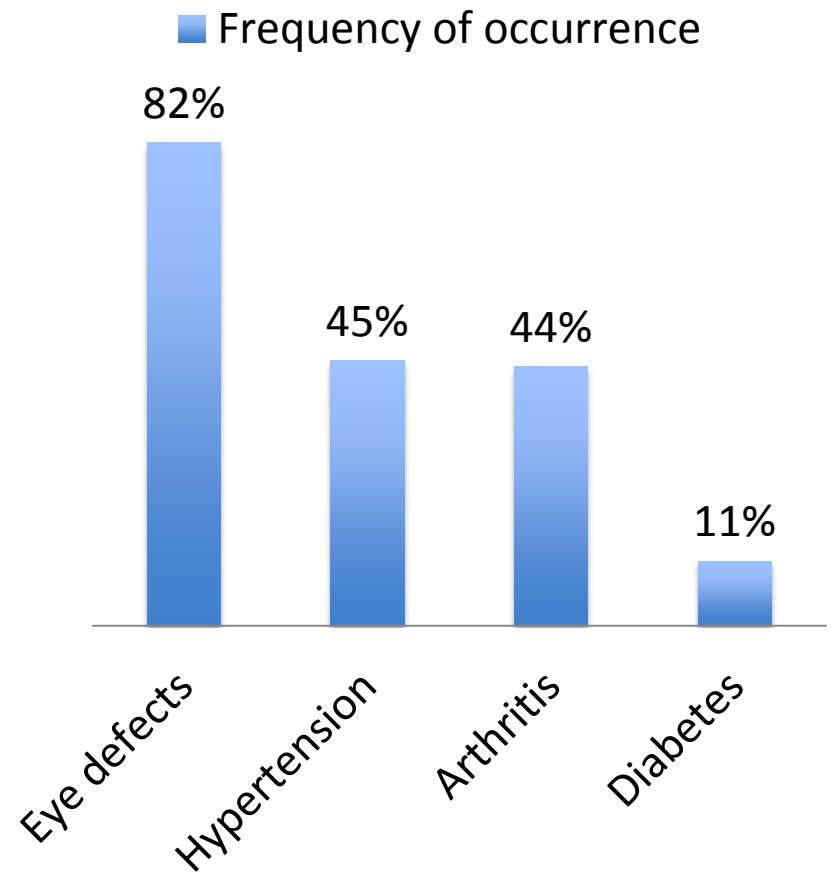
- No of respondents= 521 elderly
- Mean age= 68 years
- Females= 70%
- Main education level;
 - primary education (58%); 5% post primary; others had none(37%)
- Occupation level;
 - 41% unemployed; 46% small scale farming; others(13%)

Result...

Common chronic illnesses;- 54% reported at least two of four common chronic illnesses assessed



■ Eye defects ■ Hypertension
■ Arthritis ■ Diabetes



Result...

- Affordability of medications= 22%(114/521)
 - 19% among hypertensive patients;
 - 24% among arthritic patients;
 - 7% among diabetic patients.
- Recently missed medications(<3 months) 2nd to unaffordability= 78%

Result...

- Business persons were most likely to afford medications than others (Odds ratio: 0.1975, $P < 0.0001$).
- Majority (82%) are not National health insurance scheme that aids health access?"

Conclusion

- Chronically ill elderly people in Nigeria cannot always afford medications or health access, thus are short of UHC.
- Innovative strategy to improve UHC among the geriatric population is recommended.



Thank you

missiontoelderlies@gmail.com

