

**O1057 Knowledge and risk perception of Lassa fever in primary health care workers in a semi-urban district, northwestern Nigeria**

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**Background:** Health care workers are at risk of contracting infections where universal safety precautions are not used. Lassa fever is a viral haemorrhagic fever endemic in West Africa, health care workers are often affected by lassa fever due to poor universal safety precaution. Primary Health Care (PHC) workers are the first line of health workers patients with various diseases including lassa fever come into contact with. The study assessed knowledge and risk perception of lassa fever in Primary Health Care workers in a semi-urban district in Northwestern Nigeria.

**Materials/methods:** A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted using two stage sampling to select 42 PHC workers. Self administered questionnaires were used to collect data from respondents knowledge and risk perception for Lassa fever.

**Results:** Most of the respondents were 20-29 years (62%), 74% were female and 45% were nurses. There was high level of awareness of lassa fever (95%) but overall knowledge score of lassa fever was poor (78%). Knowledge of lassa fever was significantly associated with age of PHC workers (p 0.032). Radio was the commonest source of information on lassa fever. Risk perception of contracting lassa fever from patients was high (95%). They were more likely to wash hands after removing gloves (98%) than before wearing gloves (71%). They were less likely to wear protective gowns (71%) and wear gloves before examining a patient (88%).

**Conclusions:** Awareness of Lassa fever was high but overall knowledge of lassa fever was poor. Risk perception was high but practice of universal precautions was lower. PHC workers need to use of universal safety precautions to avoid risk of lassa fever infection.

