*Onaolapo Oluwaseun Oluwatayo*

**TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA-MOST**

**COMMON BIRTH INJURY IN NORTERN NIGERIA**

Kharkiv national medical university

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology No. 2

Kharkiv, Ukraine

*Research advisor: ass. Gradil O.G.*

**Introduction.** An obstetric fistula can be defined as a trauma caused by prolonged forced child birth. It is an abnormal hole between the vagina wall and the lower urinary tract or the rectum. There are two types urogenital fistula and recto-vaginal fistula. This can cause urine or feaces incontinence. Northern part of Nigeria is becoming one of the most popular areas with this post-partum trauma in Africa with over 18,000 new cases every year with high rate of mortality and disability almost 350,000-500,000housewives living with this condition.

Several factors have been associated: Child marriages and child bearing (age 12-16), lack of access to good health care facility, poor antenatal care, female circumcision, poor education and awareness, poverty.

**Materials and methods.** 20 cases of women aged 13-20 years who had vaginal delivery in Kazim clinic in Kano northern Nigeria between June 2017- july 2017 with complication of labor-obstetric fistula. The main treatment which is surgery was used to treat the patients. Pre-operative antibiotics were given, enema, physiotherapy, post surgery catheterization and follow up. 5 cases of women aged 18-20 years had caesarian section due to possible complication by fistula.

**Results.** 16 cases out of the 20 cases underwent pre-surgical care (antibiotics, physiotherapy), surgery and post-surgical care carried out were successful with full rehabilitation of the patients without any complications. They made urine within 24hours after surgery.4 out of the 20 cases has post-surgical complications which was urinary retention. 1 case of urinary retention due to bilateral ureter ligation, which was repaired immediately and was successful. 3 cases of urinary retention due to a blocked catheter but quickly resolved. 5 cases of caesarian section to avoid complication by fistula were successful, with no complications.

**Conclusion.** Obstetric Fistula is the leading cause of labor trauma in northern Nigeria due to poverty, bad heath care system, poor education and bad ethnic moral. This can be prevented by creating awareness on the cons of young marriage and child bearing, improving the health system making it easily accessible and affordable.