

# Boko Haram Insurgency: Pattern and Management of Noma in Internally Displaced Persons in Maiduguri

\*AHMAD MM, \*SULEIMAN IK,  
\*ABDULLAHI MAS, \*OLASOJI HO,  
\*\*BELLO S, \*SANDA AK

\*Department of Oral and Maxillofacial  
Surgery, University of Maiduguri Teaching  
Hospital, Maiduguri.

\*\*State House Medical Center, Asokoro  
District, Abuja, FCT.

## Correspondence

*Dr. M. M. Ahmad*

*Department of Oral and Maxillofacial  
Surgery University of Maiduguri Teaching  
Hospital, Maiduguri, Borno State*

*Email: dentmamodibbo@gmail.com*

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## INTRODUCTION

Cancrum oris is a debilitating disease commonly seen in children in low resource countries (Adeniyi & Awosan, 2019; Feller et al., 2019;). The late presentation of the affected patients and the associated facial disfigurement has been of much concern in the literature. Several studies have looked at the pattern and management of cancrum oris in Nigerian populace (Adeniyi & Awosan, 2019; Bello et al., 2019). This study specifically aimed to study the pattern and management of cancrum oris among patients from an internally displaced person's (IDP) camps in Maiduguri, an area ravaged by the Boko haram insurgency since 2009.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A five years retrospective study of patients with Noma at University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital from January 2017 to January 2022. Ethical approval for the study was obtained. Patients' socio-demographics, pattern of Noma presentation and treatments offered were collected in a prepared

proforma for this study and analyzed using SPSS version 23.

## RESULTS

Twenty-three patients were seen during the study period, 16 were females, with age range 1 to 70 years (median 4yrs), comprising 3 adults and 20 children. Fifteen patients (62.5%) were from IDP camps and consume predominantly carbohydrate-based diet (66.7%). Among the 15 IDP patients 11 (73.3%) presented in an acute state of the disease and severe malnutrition was associated in 9 and measles in 6 patients. Left site of the cheek was the predominant region affected (8 patients) and mandible was involved in 7 of them. Nutritional rehabilitation with F-75 via NG tube, Antibiotics, Analgesic and Vitamin A (in measles), aggressive wound debridement with diluted hydrogen peroxide and Normal saline (1:6) were the treatment done for the acute phase. Reconstruction of the defect with loco-regional flap in chronic phase. One patient diet during the course of treatment.

## CONCLUSION

Large number of acute cases in this study may be an indicator of resurgence of Noma in this region, the need to take adequate steps to ensure food security, vaccination, prevention of malaria and early detection of cancrum oris in IDP camps in this region cannot be overemphasized.

## REFERENCES

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