

ASSESSING THE EFFECT OF TRAINING OF TRADITIONAL
BONE SETTERS IN ENUGU STATE SOUTH EAST NIGERIA

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SUMMARY

In developing nations traditional bone setters (TBSs) play a significant role in bone fracture management. However, despite high patronage of the TBSs, they remain untrained practitioner in bone management and whose functions are often associated with high morbidity and mortality. This study evaluated the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of trained TBSs in bone setting management.

The study was a quasi-experimental type undertaken to compare the KAP of a trained TBSs with that of untrained TBSs at two separate local government areas. One day instructional course was given to the TBSs at Nkanu West Local Government Area (study group) while TBSs at Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area (control group) received no instructions. The study group was given continual retraining bi-monthly for six months (post intervention) at their clinics. There was baseline data collection prior to training and post intervention data collection. In addition, there was baseline data collection on the control group before the study and at the end of the study. There were statistically significant improvements in the knowledge and practices of the TBSs in study group after the training. There were good attitudinal changes after training. The TBSs in control arm recorded no change in knowledge, attitude and practice at the end of the study. There was also a remarkable improvement in the referral of serious bone injury patients to orthopedic surgeons.

This study has shown that the training of TBSs has improved their KAP of fracture management as well as their referral of serious bone fracture patients. This will hopefully reduce the level of morbidity and mortality due to patronage of untrained TBSs. Education of TBSs should be encouraged and sustained through workshops and seminars. It is therefore advocated that the activities of TBSs in their various localities should be adequately monitored and their knowledge periodically updated with orthopedic care.

Keywords: Traditional bone setters, training, Knowledge, Attitude, Practice.