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Children with transposition of the great arteries: Should they actually be born in Nigeria?

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Transposition of the great arteries is the most common cyanotic congenital heart lesion in the newborn. Palliative and definitive interventions to manage children with transposition of the great arteries are currently not available in Nigeria and there are limited reports on it in Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. A prospective and cross sectional study involving consecutive patients diagnosed with transposition of the great arteries using clinical evaluation and echocardiography at the Pediatric Department of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Lagos Nigeria as part of a large study between January 2007 and December 2015 was done. There were 51 cases of TGA within the study period with a male to female ratio of 2:1 and a prevalence of 1.55 per 10,000 among population of children who presented to center during the study. Its proportion amongst children with congenital heart disease was 4.9%, while it was 15.4% among those with cyanotic congenital heart disease. The mean age \pm SD of the subjects was 10.3 ± 21.8 . Up to 70% of the patients were less than 6 months of age at initial presentation. The most common mode of presentation in our subjects was cyanosis. The most common associated intracardiac anomaly was ventricular septal defect which occurred in 56% of the patients. Transposition of the great arteries is as common in Nigeria as in the other parts of the world. The most common mode of presentation was cyanosis. There is an urgent need to establish Pediatric Cardiac centers in Nigeria if these children are to be salvaged.

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