Traumatic chest injury in children

Sir,

Okonta shared an interesting experience that 'blunt chest injury from falls and automobile accidents is more common than penetrating chest injury',[1] and 'treatment with tube thoracostomy is the major management modality with empyema thoracis as the most common complication'.[1] In fact, these epidemiological data can be different from those from other settings. Brown noted that 'the cause of disparities in childhood trauma appears to be multifactorial and may include race, socio-economic factors, insurance status, access and healthcare provider biases'.[2] Nevertheless, the present data from Nigeria showed some concerns. First, there might be the problem of child care since the accidents seem common. Second, the complication as empyema thoracis might imply the requirement of improving infection control. In addition, the empyema thoracis can be the cause of re-surgery requirement.[3] The left remained a question that Okonta should discuss is the HIV status of the patients since this might also reflect the pattern of post-operative complications (empyema thoracis is a common chest infection in HIV-infected patients leading to surgical requirement).[4]

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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