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## Acute bacterial meningitis in a developing country: diagnosis related mortality among paediatric patients.

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### Abstract

**OBJECTIVES:** To evaluate the effect of late diagnosis and other factors on outcome of paediatric bacterial meningitis (BM) and recommend appropriate intervention.

**DESIGN:** Case series.

**SETTING:** University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Calabar, Nigeria.

**SUBJECTS:** 62 consecutive BM patients aged two months to 16 years admitted between 1991 and 1994.

**MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES:** Mortality rate.

**RESULTS:** Diagnostic difficulties experienced in 58% of cases and other factors resulted in delayed diagnosis and high mortality (20 to 47%).

**CONCLUSION:** Only elimination of the identified inadequacies in management can significantly reduce the BM-related high mortality in developing countries.

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[Indexed for MEDLINE]

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**MeSH terms**

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**LinkOut - more resources**