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INVESTIGATING FOREST PRODUCTS FOR CANCER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTHWEST NIGERIA

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Experts have predicted that by 2020, the number of cancer patients in Nigeria will rise from 24 million to 42 million, in line with speculations 21 years ago. It is also feared that by same 2020, death rates from cancer in Nigerian males and females may reach 72.7 per 100,000 and 76 per 100,000 respectively. The development of forest products is already creating markets and improving lives of the people who depend on it as a source of livelihood.

Objectives of the study include: Description of the various activities involved in the utilization of forest products by Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMPs) to treat cancer, identify the medicinal impact of forest product in cancer treatment in the study area and examine the difference in the treatment of cancer by Traditional Medicine Practitioners and Orthodox Medicine Practitioners.

Results: The result showed the following species were identified belonging to seven different families; *Rutaceae*, *Asteraceae*, *Anarcardiaceae*, *Annonaceae*, *Meliaceae*, *Guttiferaceae* and *Leguminaceae* topped the priority list for Cancer treatment in Southwest Nigeria. Five of the plants were tested against cancer cell lines MCF7 and Hs578T while Doxorubicin (a synthetic anticancer drug) was used as the control treatment. Three plants *Saccharum officinarum* (Stem), *Sucriniega virosa* (Root) and *Piper guineensis* (Seed) produced no result; *Garcinia kola* (Bark) did not exhibit any anticancer effect even at a concentration of 10 u1/m1 while only one plant species was effective against the cancer cell line at 1u1/m1. 58% of patients recovered after treatment and 42% did not suggest that treatment with forest products does not guarantee 100% cure of the disease. The subjective causes of cancer were however identified through the responses from the general public to be more of life style related. It is therefore, concluded that indigenous forest products are effective in treatment of cancer.

BIOGRAPHY

Oluwakemi O completed her PhD from Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria in 2016. She is a Medical Scientist at the Federal College of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Abuja, Nigeria. She has over 10 publications.

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