

Lawal, OO 1998

High morbidity and mortality often attend perforation of duodenal ulcer. Over a 6-year period at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 22 patients presented with prepyloric or duodenal ulcer perforations--a relatively low yearly rate of about four. Of the 15 patients evaluated, approximately three-quarters were working class young men and eight (53%) had no ulcer history. The high morbidity, and 20% mortality rate, observed were attributable to late presentation and the presence of advanced bacterial peritonitis in 67% of the patients at admission. Imprecise clinical features in those with small perforations led to misdiagnosis in a third of cases. Treatment of perforations in the majority (93%) of patients was by simple closure or truncal vagotomy and pyloroplasty. An increase in patients' awareness of the potentials of optimal operative management should encourage earlier presentation