

A STEP TOWARDS BETTER HEARING: NEW AUDIOLOGY ROOM UNVEILED

MED copie / August 2024

PAGE 2/09

By: Abigael Lunani

wai Kibaki Hospital-KNH Annex is thrilled to announce the completion and official opening of its cutting-edge Audiology room, a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to enhancing patient care within the region. This new addition represents a monumental addition to our hospital's services, aimed at providing comprehensive and specialized care for patients with hearing and balance disorders.

The Audiology Room at Mwai Kibaki Hospital- KNH Annex is not just a space; it is a lifeline for those suffering from hearing impairments and related issues. The facility is equipped with the latest technology and staffed by a team of highly trained audiologists and hearing care professionals. The staff are dedicated to diagnosing, managing, and treating various hearing disorders, a significant advancement in the region's healthcare landscape, bringing world-class hearing care closer to home.

Kibaki, said, "We are excited to offer a comprehensive range of audiology services in our new facility. These services include: Comprehensive hearing evaluations for both children and adults, including pure-tone audiometry, speech audiometry and tympanometry. Tinnitus management for those suffering from tinnitus, or ringing in the ears where there will be tailored treatment plans which will include sound therapy counselling and advanced management strategies to alleviate symptoms and improve the quality of life. Our goal is to provide personalized care to each patient, helping them manage and overcome their auditory and balance challenges effectively." Dr. Caroline an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist at Mwai Kibaki hospital, also said, "The launch of our audiology services is set to make a profound difference in the lives of our patients. For many, hearing and balance disorders can significantly impact daily life, leading to

challenges in communication, social interactions, and overall quality of life. By offering these specialized services right here at Mwai Kibaki Hospital, we aim to provide timely and effective care that will help our patients regain confidence and improve their overall well-being."

The opening of the Audiology Room is a game-changer for Mwai Kibaki Hospital and the community it serves. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 5% of the world's population requires rehabilitation to address their "disabling" hearing loss. Locally, this new facility will help bridge the gap in access to quality hearing healthcare, providing timely diagnosis and intervention, which is critical in preventing further complications associated with untreated hearing loss.

Come and experience a new era of hearing care at Mwai Kibaki Hospital—where every sound matters.



By: Chris Mwiti



pox, formerly known as monkeypox, is a viral zoonotic disease that has been gaining attention due to its recent global outbreak. Initially discovered in West Africa, Mpox has now affected over 116 countries, including Kenya, since the start of the current outbreak in 2022. As healthcare professionals, it's crucial to understand the nature of this disease, its symptoms, transmission methods, and preventive measures.

Symptoms and Transmission

The clinical presentation of Mpox can vary but commonly includes a range of symptoms such as skin rash, fever, headache, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, body aches, and back pain. These symptoms typically last longer in individuals with weakened immune systems, increasing the risk of severe illness.

Mpox is transmitted through several routes:

Direct contact with

infected skin, scabs, body fluids, blood, or wounds.

- Exposure to contaminated materials such as bed linen or clothing.
- Respiratory droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact with an infected person.
- Vertical transmission from a pregnant mother to her fetus via the placenta.

The characteristic rash associated with Mpox can appear on various parts of the body, including the face, mouth, throat, palms, groin, genital areas, and anus.

Diagnosis and Testing

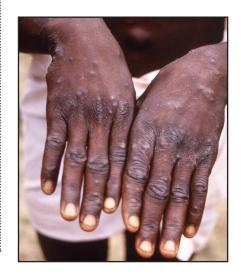
Confirming a case of Mpox requires laboratory testing. The most reliable method is the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, which detects the virus from a sample taken via a skin lesion swab. Accurate diagnosis is crucial for managing the disease and preventing further spread. **Preventing the spread of Mpox**

involves several key practices:

• Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing with soap and water.

- Waste disposal: Safe disposal of contaminated materials to prevent environmental spread.
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection: Regularly disinfecting surfaces and objects that may be contaminated.
- Avoid sharing personal items: Clothes, towels, and other personal items should not be shared to reduce transmission risk.
- Rash management: Avoid shaving over rashes and refrain from breaking blisters to prevent secondary infections.
- Report symptoms: If you suspect you have Mpox, contact the Ministry of Health hotline for guidance.

As Mpox continues to pose a public health challenge, especially in countries like Kenya, it is essential for the healthcare community to remain vigilant. Early detection, proper diagnosis, and adherence to preventive measures are key to controlling the spread of this virus. At Mwai Kibaki Hospital, we are committed to providing up-todate information and ensuring the safety and well-being of our patients and the broader community.



MEDocope / August 2024

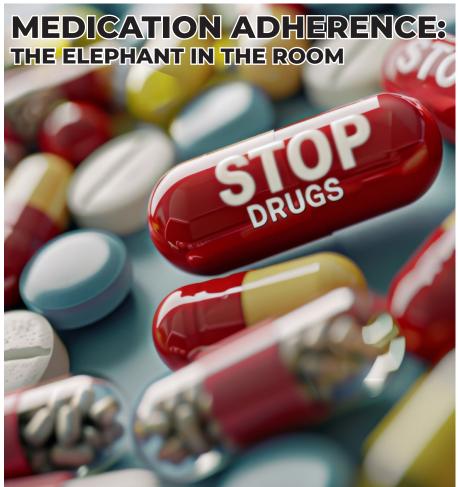
PAGE 4/09

By: Julius Ita

According to the World Health Organization, medication adherence can have a more direct impact on patient outcomes than the specific treatment itself. Medication adherence can affect quality and length of life, health outcomes, and overall healthcare costs.

In medical research carried out by IJTMRPH in 2023, the findings from the study revealed that medication non-adherence is highly prevalent among hypertensive patients on follow-up in the two tertiary hospitals in Nyeri County, and therefore creating an urgent need for concerted efforts to address the problem.

"Pharmacist play a major role in curbing medication adherence prevalence because they are smack at the centre of medication administration to clients." Said Dr. Michelle Mwaniki, pharmacist intern at Mwai Kibaki hospital. WHO defines adherence as the extent to which the persons' behavior (including medicationtaking) corresponds with agreed recommendations from a healthcare provider. It includes the initiation of the treatment, implementation of the prescribed regime, and discontinuation of the pharmacotherapy. A"These two nonadherence classifications not only affect the clinical outcome but also affect the financial outcome of the health system" said Dr. Michelle. She went on to add, "Nonadherence of medication can be caused by social economic status of a patient, cultural believes, social stigma, health care systems that is long queues or lack of drugs at facilities, we have therapeutic regiment which could be harsh or lengthy to a patient. We also have condition dimension that is patient



"Pharmacist play a major role in curbing medication adherence prevalence because they are smack at the centre of medication administration to clients." Said **Dr. Michelle Mwaniki, pharmacist intern**

has sdepression or psychotic disorders and lastly, we have patient dimension where patient could present with hearing or sight challenges making it hard for the pharmacist to give directions."

The effects of medication nonadherence are critical and can lead to lifelong repercussions, this are antimicrobial resistance, increased chances of hospitalisation, increased changes of mortality and depreciating quality of life. For patients Dr. Michelle advises that, "Kindly finish your medication as prescribed, don't buy drugs over the counter for whatever reason, and lastly ask questions when you are being prescribed medication. This will increase your knowledge on the medicines prescribed and your

treatment regimen."

As healthcare institutions, there are various strategies that can be employed to help reduce medication nonadherence:

- 1. Improve patient communication especially where we have elderly patients who communicate using the local dialect.
- 2. Use of visual aids translated to various languages
- 3. Training staff on emotional intelligence to be able to discern best way to handle clients
- 4. Introducing medication administration techniques like pill count,

"As my parting shot, medication adherence is crucial in therapeutic outcome, take your medication as prescribed and adhere intake." Said Dr. Michelle.

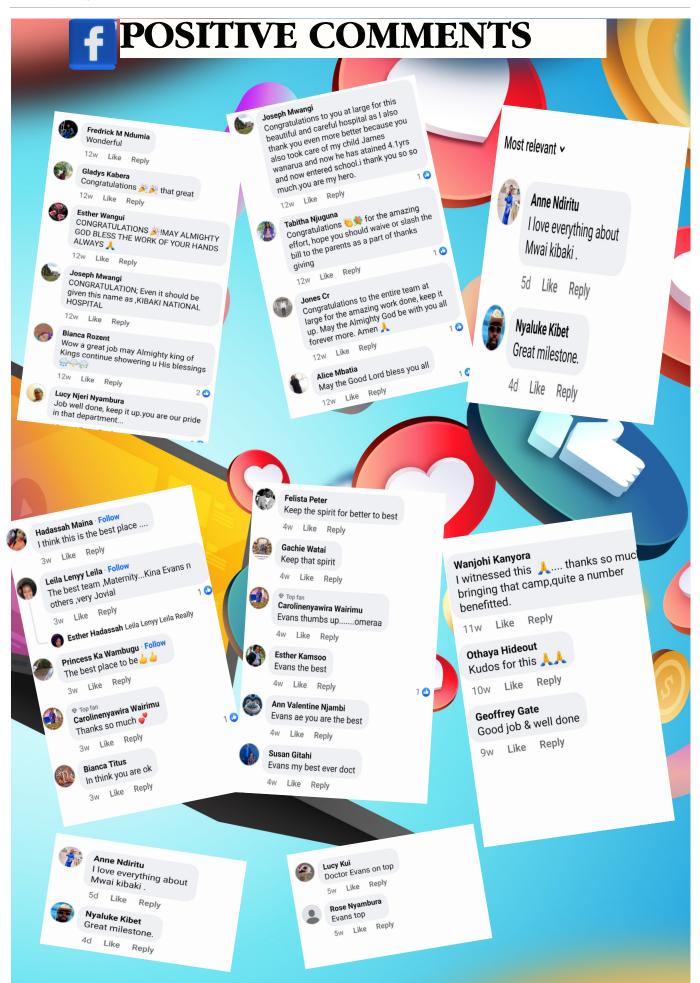




MY INSPIRATION



MEDocope / August 2024 PAGE 6/09





MEDocope / August 2024
PAGE 8/09



PICTURE SH®W



Handing over of the new Audiology room keys & certificate



Kamukunji grounds medical outreach in partner with Karwimbo



Kairuthi medical outreach courtesy of Othaya county commissioner



MKH Counsellor Jane sensitizing baraza la wazee on suicide awareness



EDITORS NOTE:

"When you feel like giving up, just remember why you held on for so long."

- Haley Williams

It takes strength and power but you are so much stronger than you know. There is a reason you are still here. You wouldn't still be around if you didn't have a reason why as mentioned in the quote above. Times get tough but there is always a 'WHY" even if we may not understand it.

Mr. Ita.J Head,Marketing & Communication Mwai Kibaki Hospital KNH Annex



To contribute or report to any newsworthy items, please contact the editorial team, or the Marketing & communication department

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Editorial Team:

Chris Mwiti Julius Ita Susan Wakiuru Abigael Lunani

Stories:

Chris Mwiti Abigael Lunani

Design by:

Chris Mwiti

Photos:

Chris Mwiti



Mwai Kibaki Hospital - KNH Annex

Address: 541- 10106 Othaya Nyeri, Kenya Phone: +254 782620353/ +254 769 472434

Email: info-knhothaya@knh.or.ke

www.Knh.or.ke