

# Review of: "Monkeypox among linked heterosexual casual partners in Bayelsa, Nigeria"

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**Potential competing interests:** The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

## Comments to the Author

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review this study.

## General impression

The present case series is of great relevance, since monkeypox is a reemerging disease on the African continent, is currently causing a global outbreak, and little is known about its pathogenesis and epidemiology. It is important to report that the disease is not exclusively transmitted to MSM.

## Specific comments

### Abstract

The concentration of the 2022 monkeypox outbreak (MPX) in MSM is not unique to the Northern Hemisphere, but to most continents. Thus, it is important that there are studies that show cases of heterosexual transmission, so that adequate prevention of the population can be carried out.

This study would best be described as a case series. There was no population sampling or sample size justification to be characterized as cross-sectional.

### Methods

This is a case series of patients attended between June and August 2022 at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital (NDUTH), Nigeria. It would be interesting to know how these patients were screened for diagnosis, and the total number of monkeypox cases evaluated over the same period in the institution. Were the patients included consecutively?

In the period, there may have been other individuals with heterosexual transmission not described, or were they the only ones with these characteristics attended in the institution?

### Results

Did the patients have any underlying disease or were they using immunosuppressants that could explain the large number of lesions (patients 1, 3, 5 and 7)? Which method was used to HIV screening? The test was performed after how long of symptoms? Was it repeated at least 30 days after exposure?

Has any patient manifested associated pelvic inflammatory disease?

It would be important to know which injectable medication patients 1 and 3 received. If they had received corticosteroids, the increase in the number of lesions would be justified.

It would be important to characterize the course of the disease in the seven individuals, the duration of symptoms, lesions and whether there were complications.

