



RADIOPHARMACY IN AFRICA: PERSPECTIVE OF ETHIOPIA AND KENYA

Aschalew Alemu^{2,3}, Joel Munene Muchira^{1,3}, David Mwanza Wanjeh^{1,3}, Emilija Janevik-Ivanovska³

¹ Ministry of Health, Kenya

² Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

³ Faculty of Medical Sciences, Goce Delcev University, Republic of Macedonia

Introduction: Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) will be the commonest cause of mortality in Africa by 2030. Since early detection and treatment is known to significantly improve patient outcomes, radiopharmaceuticals have become of invaluable benefit because they offer the most sensitive tools in the detection, diagnosis and targeted therapy for NCDs and also infectious diseases. Therefore, Radiopharmacy has a huge role to play in responding to this new disease trends. The current status of Radiopharmacy in many African countries is however not well documented and this is what inspired to carry out this work.

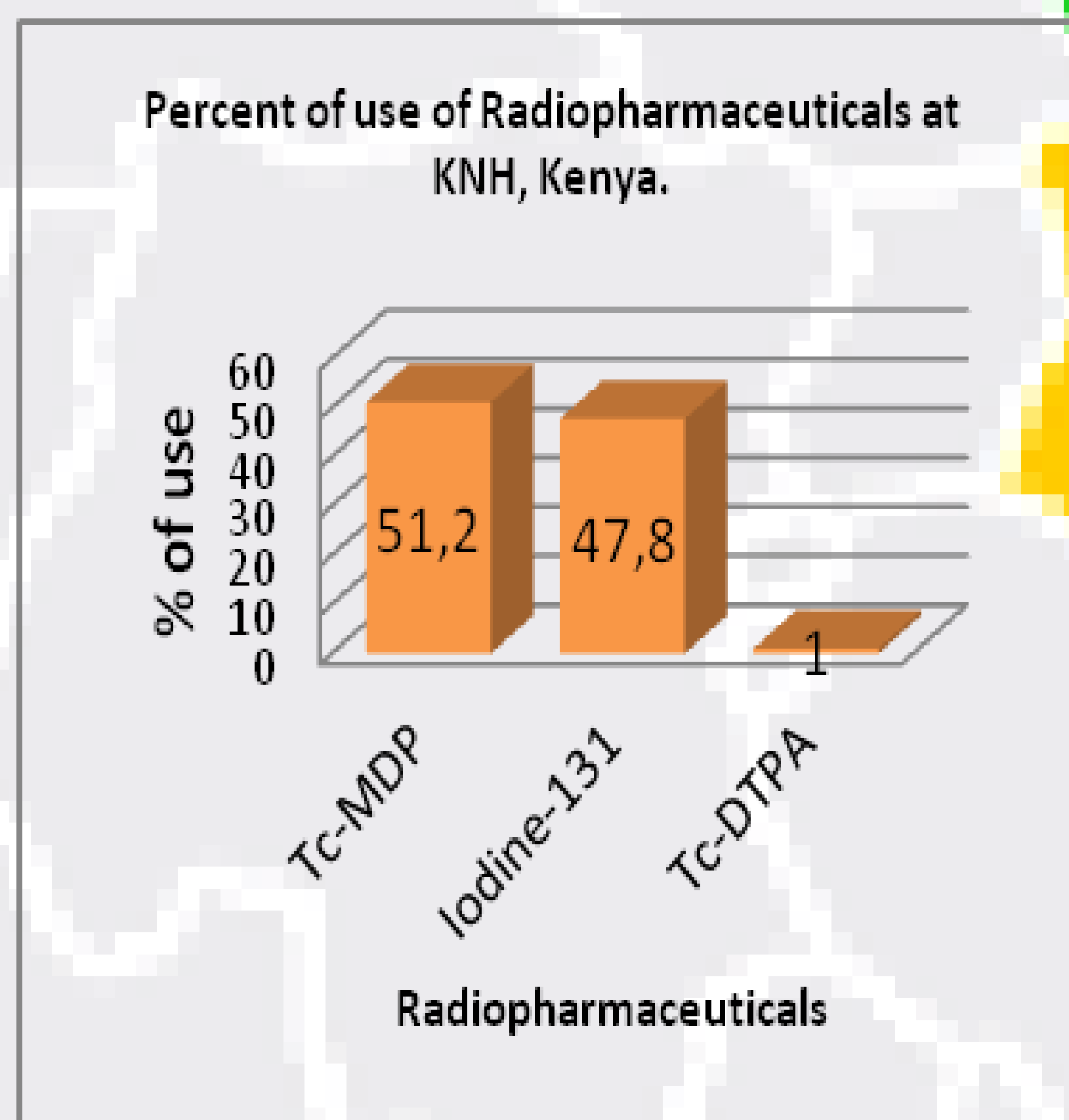
Objective: To describe the current status of Radiopharmacy practice in Eastern Africa using the perspective of Kenya and Ethiopia

Methodology: Descriptive study.

Tools: Questionnaires, conference proceedings and audit reports.

Results

Radiopharmacy status		
Country	Ethiopia	Kenya
Population size in million	90	45
Radiopharmacy units	1	2
Level of practice	2a	2a
Radiopharmacist	1	0
Training institution for radiopharmacy	0	0
Availability of regulation for RPs	Yes	No
Number of RPs in common use	4	3



Common Radiopharmaceuticals in use

Ethiopia: TcO₄ for thyroid scan, 99mTc-MDP, 99mTc-DTPA, 131I and 99mTc-DMSA.

Kenya: Common RPs in use in Kenyatta National Hospital: 99mTc-MDP, 99mTc-DTPA and 131I.

Discussion: Radiopharmacy in Kenya and Ethiopia is still young but has potential for growth. The preparation of radiopharmaceuticals for human use requires that it is carried out in well-defined and controlled conditions applying the principles of GMP, GLP, GRPP and radiation safety so as to avoid the risk of contamination and guarantee safety. This will require improvements in the areas of human resource, regulation and guidelines, infrastructure, training, and availability of radiopharmaceuticals.

Future perspective: The two countries have planned to establish a total of ten nuclear medicine centers in the next five years. Radiopharmacy will therefore have a great contribution in expanding and strengthening Nuclear Medicine services.

Conclusion: This description is an important starting point in developing demand-driven solutions in Radiopharmacy so as to address the growing need in Ethiopia and Kenya.