Reviewer's report

Title: Community-based study of the prevalence of essential tremor in urban Lagos, Nigeria - a door-to-door study

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2012

Reviewer: Rivka Inzelberg

Reviewer's report:

The authors estimated the prevalence of essential tremor (ET) in Nigeria. The topic is interesting, the study is important especially because epidemiological studies on movement disorders in Africa are sparse. Unfortunately, the study carries significant methodological problems.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1- The introduction is very long and contains topics that are not related to the study itself. The paragraphs starting with "Other motor features..." and the following one starting with "Recent studies have clarified.." should be deleted including their references. The authors relate to prevalence in the US. Other epidemiological studies should be cited from other Muslim populations in the world.

2- The results should include a flow chart with the following items:
   Number approached
   Number that agreed to be interviewed, number that did nit, deceased, excluded
   Number interviewed
   Number examined, those excluded, reasons for exclusion
   Number of ET subjects.
   Other diagnoses that were not ET How many Parkinson's disease cases were found?

3- Table 1 and 2 should be combined.

4- The methods section should appear before the results section.

5- The methods section should clearly state that the subjects signed a written informed consent.

6- Why did the authors use question b and c in the questionnaire? These seem to be oriented to Parkinson's disease. How many Parkinson's disease cases were found? Please add the number of PD cases to the results.

7- Which diagnostic criteria were used for ET. This should be clearly stated in the methods.

8- The results report that prevalence was 473.68/1000 between the ages 75-85. Table 2 shows that in fact the population included only 26 persons at this age. This should be clearly stated in the results. Please omit the words "linear trend"
and replace by increase.

9- In page 7, paragraph 2 the authors state that 44.4% of the tremor started on the right and 22.3% on the left meaning that 66.7% had asymmetrical onset. Please further elaborate in the discussion concerning this large proportion of asymmetrical onset, which is unusual.

10- How many patients were using medications that could cause a tremor? Please add to the results.

11- Please add a table that with reported prevalence in other studies with African, African American and also in Muslim populations to compare with the present population.

12- The discussion should include a paragraph on the strength and weakness of the study. The fact that only 200 persons of the 3000 that were approached were older than 65 and only 26 older than 75 is a major limitation that should be clearly written in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions

1- The result section in the abstract should include a clear number of the studied population and not only state the number of ET patients. The last sentence about the WHO should be deleted.

2- The conclusion of the abstract should include solely the findings of the study and not give extrapolations to the whole Nigerian population.

3- In the methods section line 5 the word "piggy-backed" is used please change or clearly explain.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'