Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Catherine Dotchin

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This is a community based door-to-door study of essential tremor from urban Nigeria. It is well written and the authors have used recognised diagnostic criteria comparable to studies from other areas. There are few such studies from sub-Saharan Africa.

They utilised a two stage methodology, with a basic 3 question tool to screen out people with possible movement disorders and then a neurologist examination at home to determine who had ET.

Comments:

Major essential revisions
1. The authors did not find anyone with head tremor in their cohort. This is likely to be because their initial screening tool only asked about hand/arm tremor, thus excluding them from the study at the first step. They need to recognise this when they report the clinical phenotype of ET, especially as they comment on this being different to other previously reported studies.

2. When discussing the performance of the tool they report that the number of false negatives was 0. It is not clear if this is taken from the 80 who they selected who had screened negative were re-examined and none had clinical characteristics. This needs to be explained in greater detail, as it seems unlikely that they have re-examined the whole cohort who responded negatively and there may well be patients who had ET who were missed, especially those with isolated head tremor (see point 1). How were these 80 selected?

Discretionary revisions:
1. I think it would be helpful to have a comment on the severity of the illness in those diagnosed. They authors discuss the treatment gap, yet if these people had previously untreated it may be because they were not particularly bothered by their symptoms.

2. It would have been good to discuss if anyone had previously been diagnosed or if all of these cases were new as a result of this study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.