Reviewer’s report

Title: Community awareness of stroke in Accra, Ghana.

Version: Date: 29 November 2013

Reviewer: ALFRED YAWSON

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Title:
Title is appropriate for the objectives of the study

Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract:
1. The methods need to indicate how the important outcome measures were analyzed.

2. In the results of the abstract, only percentages were presented. Both absolute figures and percentages should be presented to make the information more meaningful.

3. In the multivariate analysis, authors stated that predictors of stroke knowledge were age, gender, religion and presence of a stroke risk factor. The authors need to include the odds ratio and the confidence intervals to enable readers judge for themselves the significance of these variables.

Introduction
4. The authors make very strong and absolute claims that there is no study that has investigated community knowledge of stroke in the country. This is not completely the case. There have been community surveys on hypertension and complications of hypertension including stroke e.g. "Pole D, Ikeme AC, Pobee JO, Larbi E, Williams H, Blankson J. The Mamprobi Survey—a screening survey for cardiovascular disease and risk factors in Africa: methodology and validity. Bulletin of World Health Organization. 1979;57:81–7". I will suggest the authors be moderate in their claims and include some related community survey literature on the subject in the introduction.

Methods
5. Authors need to correct all typographical and spelling and grammatical errors in the document. Example in the last paragraph on sampling and data collection (page 5) the phrase 'by the' was repeated in the last sentence of the paragraph.

6. On data analysis (page 5) authors stated that the significance of predictor variables were assessed by p values from Wald statistics, and p# 0.05 was
considered significant. In using the logistic regression as they did, they need to probably judge significance by odds ratios and confidence intervals rather than relying on the p-values.

Results

7. Presentation of the results should be consistent, i.e absolute figure (%) e.g. 4 (20%). Stating the results only in percent forms is not readily meaningful

8. Findings from the regression analysis were supported with odds ratios and confidence intervals in the results section. This however, were not included in the methods. As already mentioned the results of the regression analysis in the abstract also need to be supported with odds ratios and confidence intervals.

9. The results of the regression analysis were not shown in any Table. I believe it will be useful to have a table indicating odds ratio, confidence levels, p-values etc so readers can assess which independent factors really were significant predictors and which were not.

All the Tables presented showed only frequencies. However, the study did analysis using p-values, odds ratios and confidence intervals. At least one table needs to show how exactly these were done and used in the study

Discussion

10. Again the authors stated strongly that "to the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to report on community awareness of stroke in Ghana...". As already mentioned the authors ought to be measured in stating this claim. This is not the first ever community survey on stroke as a cardiovascular complication in Ghana.

11. In the last sentence in the first paragraph on page 7, the authors stated "In Ghana there is currently a stroke epidemic, ..... in this study".

This statement needs to be supported with a reference

12. In the first sentence in the last paragraph on page 7, authors mentioned "This study has not only....., but has also shown a high general prevalence of risk factors (39%) ..." . The study did not take any bio-markers or any measurements, so at best the prevalence of the risk factors should be self-reported prevalence of the risks of stroke.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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