Author’s response to reviews

Title: PREVENTION PRACTICES INFLUENCING FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF VASO-OCCCLUSIVE CRISIS AMONG SICKLE CELL PATIENTS IN ABEOKUTA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #1: Reviewer's comments on HOME MANAGEMENT OF SICKLE CELL CRISIS AMONG PATIENTS IN ABEOKUTA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OGUN STATE.

The focus of this study is relevant, considering the high prevalence of sickle cell disease and the associated morbidities and mortality in our Nigeria.

THANK YOU

1. Abstracts: Rather too long, especially the results section. Should be shortened.

CORRECTED

2. Introduction:
(a) Also too long. Some sections are not necessary e.g. write up on Transcranial doppler ultrasonography. Some other sections need to be summarised e.g. the clinical picture in SCD.

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DELETED

(b) I observed that some phrases/ sentences look like direct copy and paste from other articles.

e.g. "Within the family micro-environment, children with SCD need optimal family support, understanding and care, particularly in terms of providing adequate nutrition and health care delivery so as to achieve an optimum and steady state of health, reducing the frequency of Crisis and proper management of their children when they have crisis. Such favourable family environment has been shown to be a good prognostic index. The authors must carefully examine these sentences and rewrite them.

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RE-WRITTEN

3. Method:

a. Setting: Why were these 2 hospitals selected for the study (out of all the hospitals in the Local Government Area). Any idea of the number of hospitals in the Area.

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THEY WERE THE TREATMENT CENTRES FOR THE DISEASE

b. What does total sampling mean?

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CORRECTED

c. How were the following variables defined? - Sickle cell crisis; plenty fluids; soothing herbs; nutritious diet; strenuous exercise????

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THEY HAVE BEEN DEFINED IN THE DATA ANALYSIS SECTION

d. What efforts were made to reduce recall bias when getting the data?
LIMITATION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED

4. Results:
   a. Factors associated with frequency of crisis - Was there statistical significant association between sex and frequency of crisis? P was given as 0.006.

CORRECTED
   b. Correlation analysis may also be important in determining the association between age and frequency of crisis

SINCE FREQUENCY OF CRISIS IS IN NOMINAL VARIABLE IT IS BETTER TO CATEGORIZE AGE AND APPLY CHI-SQUARE TESTS

   c. Rewrite chi-square sign appropriately

DONE

5. Discussion/ conclusion:

The conclusion that "drug prophylaxis rather than lifestyle factors may be more important in home management and reduction of frequency of sickle cell crisis" is not CLINICALLY significant. This should be discussed.

DONE

Reviewer #2: Authors investigated ; Home management of sickle cell crisis among patients in Abeokuta South local government area of Ogun State.
Title: It is difficult to study "Home management" of any condition in a cross sectional manner, this is better done on a prospective cohort of 2 groups which should be matched for age, sex and frequency of crisis. I suggest author should revise the title or choose a more suitable one.

CORRECTED

Abstract:

Results- "association of crisis with nutritious diet", author should explain what is meant by nutritious diet and how the responses were ascertained.

DONE

Use "prophylaxis" instead of "prophylactics".

CORRECTED

Introduction:

Should be targeted at the topic - "home management of sickle cell crisis" and its associated gains or losses. Authors generally described sickle cell with no focus on the topic.

DONE

Methodology: State duration of the study (date of commencement and ending)

DONE
Delete paragraphs 2 & 3 and only retain information relevant with respect to the study at hand in paragraph 1.

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DELETE

Sampling techniques: the study sampling was done by a consecutive, non-randomized sampling - this should be clearly stated

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CORRECTED

Data collection: should be described in 1 sentence, "interviewer administered pre-validated questionnaire were used"

DONE

Delete the section on instrument of data collection

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DELETED

Ethical Approval: written informed consent is required from each participant, verbal consent alone is not adequate.

IT WAS INDICATED BEFORE BUT NOW BETTER WRITTEN

Results: Author needs to define the term "nutritious diet".

DONE
Can these patients be said to managed at home? It may be necessary for authors to define the term "home management", in this context as opposed to hospital management.

CORRECTED

Discussion: This should be targeted at the salient findings in the study with respect to the pre-defined aims and objectives.

DONE

MAJOR COMMENT: This is a hospital-based study to investigate "home management" of sickle cell crisis, were all or some of the patients managed at home? If not how are the conclusions reached since patients also visited the hospital when the need arose. What were the forms of the crisis managed at home in this group of patients and what was the outcome?

TITLE CORRECTED

Reviewer 3

Abstract section:

• the background is unsuitable; the morbidity description of the disease would be better suited in the introduction

DONE

• in the result

The phrase “A total of 415 patients were recruited into the study” should be in the methodology section.
Two- third should be removed, the frequency is sufficient.

THIS IS BECAUSEB THE BEGINNING OF THE SENTENCE SHOULD BE STARTED WITH WORDS NOT FIGURES

It is not necessary to put the values of chi2

Introduction section

The introduction part must be shorter than that; the prevalence of the disease in other countries should be removed.

INTRODUCTION REWRITTEN

Line54 after Prevention putt bracket.

DONE

Methodology section

Authors enrolled 415 SCD in their study but they must give their phenotype such as SS, Sβ, SC

THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS ARE CONFIRMED SCD PATIENTS ON TREATMENT BUT THE DATA ON THE PHENOTYPES WERE NOT COLLECTED
Many details are given in the section of study location and population. Authors could summarize this part.

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DONE

sickle cell crisis can be replaced by vaso-occlusive crises. then authors could use abbreviation such as VOC.

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DONE