Reviewer’s report

Title: The frequency and severity of epistaxis in children with sickle cell anaemia in Eastern Uganda: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2017

Reviewer: Adekunle Adekile

Reviewer’s report:

This is a worthwhile study of an interesting subject, which had not been given much attention among patients with sickle cell disease in Africa. Although a pilot study, it is nonetheless well designed and executed. There are a few minor issues I like to bring to the attention of the authors.

Granted that this is a case-control study, nonetheless the patients should not be referred to as "cases" in the body of the text (methodology, results and discussion).

It is not acceptable to include patients who had only sickling test since their Hb genotypes can not be ascertained. If they are still available, it should not be too difficult to recall them for Hb electrophoresis. If not, their phenotype should be further described to convince the readers that these were more likely than not to be HbSS patients. Let's know how they presented (dactylitis, pain episodes etc).

By the same token, since the control subjects did not have their Hb genotypes determined, it should be stressed that they were apparently healthy. One would like to know from which outpatient clinic some of them were recruited from.

Under results, in the text, indicate the percentages along with the numbers of patients and controls falling in the different categories.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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