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: 24 May 2017

Reviewer: Anthony Ikefuna

Reviewer’s report:

Introduction: The authors should have stated the pathophysiologic process in children with the disease which make them more prone to Epistaxis than their controls. The possible theories surrounding the occurrence of Epistaxis should be brought in the Introduction ie lines 232 - 235.

In addition, are the authors discussing Sickle cell anaemia (Hb SS) or sickle Cell Disease (SCD) (Hb S and another abnormal haemoglobin) If the latter is the case as indicated in the title, there is need to stratify the occurrence of Epistaxis according to the various forms of SCD.

Diagnosis of Haemoglobinopathy was made with two methods. Though noted as a limitation, the subjects identified with Sickling test should have been excluded from the study.

The claim on lines 216 -218 appears not to be derived from the study.

Table 2: It is not very clear as to what the authors meant by "recurrent epistaxis" (line 144 ie does that mean ≥ 5 episodes per week/ month / year?

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?
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Unable to assess

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