Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epidemiology of non-traumatic spinal cord injury in Uganda: a single center, prospective study with MRI evaluation

Authors:

Abdu Musubire (amusubire@yahoo.com)
David Meya (david.meya@gmail.com)
Katabira Elly (katabira@infocom.co.ug)
Ana Claire Meyer (anaclaire@gmail.com)
Paul Bohjanen (bohja001@umn.edu)
David Boulware (boulw001@umn.edu)
Frank Minja (frank.minja@yale.edu)

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Response to reviewers’ comments for Manuscript NURL-D-17-00349R2

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Epidemiology of non-traumatic spinal cord injury in Uganda: a single center, prospective study with MRI evaluation

Abdu kisekka Musubire, MBChB, M.MED; David B Meya, MBChB,M.Med; Katabira T Elly, M.D, FRCP; Ana Claire L Meyer, M.D; Paul R Bohjanen, M.D,PHD; David R Boulware, M.D, MPH; Frank Minja, M.D
Reviewer 2 (Reviewer 2)

Comment: REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER: Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? Yes Reviewer comments: The overall quality of the manuscript has increased after the revisions. It reads better, the flow of idea and discussion has also improved. However, there is still a minor issue with the references. In Vancouver Style, full name of the journal is abbreviated or shortened. This is missing in reference number 10,11,16,21,23 and 24. This should be corrected Rest of the manuscript is now in good shape for final submission

Response: The references have been updated to suit the journal style with the journal names abbreviated in those references 10,11 in the background page 5 and 16,21,23 and 24 page 11-13 in the discussion section. The reference for 11 and 17 have been combined because it is the same reference.

Editor Comments:

Comment 1: Please define abbreviations at first use, with attention to the Abstract.
Response 1: This has been done on page 2

Comment 2: Please move the keywords section to follow the manuscript Abstract and precede the Background.
Response 2: Key words on page 3 after the abstract

Comment 3: Please ensure that tables are free of shading and formatted according to BMC Neurology guidelines (https://bmcneurol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript#preparing+tables).
Response 3: This is done table 1 results section line 96 page 8 and table 2 line 120 page 10

Comment 4: Please remove headers and footers from the manuscript.
Response 4: Headers and footers removed from the whole document

Comment 5: Please provide a list of abbreviations following the Conclusions.
Response 5: List of abbreviations now included on the lines 197-214 pages 14-15

Comment 6: Please include a Declaration section following the list of abbreviations and ensure that all subsections are completed and consistent with BMC Neurology guidelines https://bmcneurol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article. In particular please amend ‘Consent to publish’ which pertains to whether your manuscript contains any individual person’s data in any form.

Response 6: I declare that the manuscript does not contain any identifiable personal data of the participants.

Comment 7: Please remove and/or obscure patient identifiable information from the attached images (e.g. names, date of birth, etc.) and supplementary material, and check for field errors in the latter.

Response 7: Edits have been done on images Figure 2a, Figure 2b and Figure 3 and the errors in the dataset cleared

Comment 8: Please integrate and place all figure titles and legends under one section at the end of the manuscript.

Response 8: This has been done on line 307-323 on page 19

Comment 9: Please check that all references in the bibliography are cited correctly.

Response 9: The references have been updated to suit the journal style with the journal names abbreviated in those references 10,11 in the background page 5 and 16,21,23 and 24 page 11-13 in the discussion section. The reference for 11 and 17 have been combined because it is the same reference.

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