Reviewer’s report

Title: Patterns of traumatic brain injury and six-month neuropsychological outcomes in Uganda

Version: 0 Date: 08 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: This is a timely controlled, observational clinical study to characterize six-month neuropsychological outcomes after traumatic brain injury (TBI) in a Ugandan tertiary hospital. This study addresses an important gap in the literature linking TBI with long-term psychological outcomes. The area of investigation is important and the study appears to have been conducted with high standards. The writing is clear, the data is well presented, and the conclusions are well justified.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
The work is technically sound. I only have a few minor points for the authors to consider/clarify.

I only have two comments regarding potential places of improvement. First, the inclusion/exclusion criteria could be more clearly defined. As stated, the inclusion criteria includes patients with TBI that were able to self-consent. This would suggest a skew toward mild TBI with few moderate-severe TBI patients, as the latter are either unconscious or lack the mental capacity to self consent during the early evaluation period. Given this, it may be useful to correlate the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score (see Table 2) for all patients with outcomes. The inclusion of Glasgow Outcome Scale scores would also be a relative simple addition that could help readers across the world to extrapolate these findings. Given this patient population, the authors may want to consider the addition of information in the title and/or abstract stating this study was performed in mild/moderate TBI patients, which seems to be a more accurate description of the work. A second very minor point, is the prevalence of men in the TBI group; however, PTSD is more prevalent in females. While not a criticism of this study, some discussion of this point may be warranted as the study population may actually underestimate the rate of PTSD after TBI. Despite these few minor points, the study overall is well done and there is enthusiasm for the work.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
please see above.

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

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
This reviewer has been recruited by a partner organization, Research Square. Reviewers with declared or apparent competing interests are not utilized for these reviews. This reviewer has agreed to publication of their comments online under a Creative Commons Attribution License attributed to Research Square and was paid a small honorarium for completing the review within a specified timeframe. Honoraria for reviews such as this are paid regardless of the reviewer recommendation.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.