Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and factors associated with sleep disorders among children with cerebral palsy in Uganda; a cross-sectional study.

Version: 0 Date: 06 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Reneva Petersen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting this article for review. There are a few things that need to be addressed for the paper to be ready for publication.

There are some grammatical errors and I would suggest maybe having someone formally edit the document for you to look at phrasing etc, to improve the flow

Abstract

Results: Look at phrasing for GMFCS. I know you mean the highest GMFCS score but this could be interpreted as the highest functional level. Could you look at rephrasing this to make it less ambiguous?

Background:

This does not flow very well- you start with risk factors, then allude to importance of sleep but then come back to risk factors.

May I suggest organising your background along themes of?

Introduction: lines 51-54 as is (correct grammar)

Importance of sleep and consequences of disrupted sleep evidence reviewed: health, QOL, family

Factors in literature that have been found to contribute to sleep disorders

Other review of literature you feel relevant like epidemiology of sleep disorders in other low income/ African countries or lack of data

The sentence about sleep disturbances and mortality might be better in the latter section of the document: where you look at deaths during sleep.
Methodology:

Setting: it might be nice to add? Population size that the hospital serves or the number of children reviewed in the service per annum to give the audience a sense of how representative this sample is of your total population.

Line 100-103: needs rephrasing, it does not read well

Sample size: fine

There is some duplication about consent: if you describe consent in study procedures, you do not have to mention it under study participants which will save some on your word count.( line 99)

You could possibly include a description of the sleep disturbances scale here: how many items, domains and cut off scores and validity etc.

Results:

Line 135: this has no meaning unless you explain under setting what the main population in your setting consists of and what other cultural groups might be seen here.

Discussion:

Line 166: this sentence is incomplete

I think you need to review your discussion for grammar and flow.

Line 168- there must be a reference for this statement

When you report your prevalence and quote other settings try to summarize: our findings showed a higher prevalence as compared to other low income settings( malasia + reference) as well as high income settings like Europe. Line 170 - this sentence is not clear, state what their reported prevalence is, and then your reasons for your higher prevalence( if your study had more severely disabled children- then state that in the European studies: x% vs your study were GMFCS IV and V to make the point)

Line 174-176- you need a reference to base this statement on. Although sleep disordered breathing is a part of sleep disorders in children with CP: your findings did not include a high number of this, so how can you ascribe your higher prevalence to this?
Line 177-180: include the percentages here to make it clear the difference between the types of sleep disorders.

Line 181: you mention comorbid problems which have been found in other studies that affect initiation of sleep but you do not include any justification for why you did not look at this/ why this was not addressed in your study or whether you are planning to consider this in future research to address the issue.

Line 192:

I am not happy with your postulation that because the seizures were controlled this explains the lack of association. You need to support this from literature / other studies or think of other reasons why epilepsy which comes out so strongly in other studies is not associated in yours.

Study limitations:

I would have included lack of control population- it always helps to compare prevalence with local normal population.

Your findings are also based at one institution and may not be generalizable to the rest of the country.

Conclusions

I do not think you can conclude that the prevalence of SDB for Uganda. You have to specify that the prevalence in a cohort at a tertiary or teaching hospital in Uganda was …..

I am very happy for you to send your changes to me for review before resubmitting to the journal in order to provide support.

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.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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