Reviewer’s report

Title: Community perceptions on the role of sexual activity on stroke: A qualitative study exploring the views of Ghanaian local community residents

Version: 1 Date: 02 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: I have only a few additional comments to do. I would recommend to do only some minor modification to improve the article.

Background:

Second page, second paragraph, lines 33-36 (first two lines of this paragraph):

Please change: "… the underlying causal factors of stroke in patients that have experienced "sex triggered stroke" include vasospasm [15], cerebral haemorrhage or subarachnoid…"

To: "… the underlying causal factors of stroke in patients that have experienced "sex triggered stroke" include vasospasm [15], rupture of cerebral aneurysm causing cerebral haemorrhage or subarachnoid…"

Results:

Author stated that 45 people refused to participate in this study. Did people who refuse to participate in the study have different risk factor profile, educational or social or economic level? Did author evaluate this? Patients and people who refuse to participate in epidemiological studies may have different epidemiological background.

Discussion:

I think Discussion would benefit of adding a small comment about stroke mimics.

Although author stated that he is convinced that Participants in the study were able to recognise Stroke signs and symptoms, I am not completely convinced with that comment. The experience in many Stroke centers is that "Stroke mimics" may imitate and confound clinical symptoms of stroke among patients and physicians. Stroke mimics include not only syncope and other cardiovascular conditions but also sex-related headaches and even functional disorders.
Functional neurological patients and patients having "unexplained medical symptoms" may present with "stroke mimics"; in this context the role of individual, social or sexual violence has not been commented or addressed.

Other conditions to be taken into account would be sex-linked headaches and sex or orgasmic migraine, which many patients may confound with stroke. A brief comment about stroke mimics and their influence on the perception of stroke would be desirable, ad this fact could illustrate the complexity of this field and to offer further possibilities of research.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

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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:

Acceptable

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