Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Systematic Review Protocol of Stigma among Children and Adolescents with Epilepsy

Authors:

Joseph Kirabira (2015mmed050@stud.must.ac.ug)
Jimmy Forry (bforry@must.ac.ug)
Madrine Nakawuki (madina2009must@yahoo.com)
Wilson Adriko (wadriko@must.ac.ug)
Abdallah Amir (aamir@must.ac.ug)
Godfrey Rukundo (grukundo@must.ac.ug)
Dickens Akena (akenadickens@yahoo.co.uk)

Version: 2 Date: 20 Nov 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

SYSR-D-17-00381

A Systematic Review Protocol of Stigma among Children and Adolescents with Epilepsy

Joseph Kirabira, MMed; Jimmy Ben Forry, MBChb, MMed; Madrine Nakawuki, MBChB; Alison Annet Kinengyere, PhD; Wilson Adriko; Abdallah Amir, MBChB, MMed; Godfrey Zari Rukundo, MBChB, MMed, PhD; Dickens Akena, MBChB, MMed, PhD

October 20, 2018

Dear editor,

RE: RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS’ COMMENTS.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise this manuscript in light of the reviewer’s comments. We have addressed all the comments point by point; the reviewer’s comments have greatly improved the quality of manuscript.
Reviewer

1. Throughout the manuscript replace ‘PsycINFO’ with PsycINFO
   We have addressed this throughout the manuscript

2. Throughout the manuscript replace ‘Google Scholar’ with ‘Google Scholar’
   We have addressed this throughout the manuscript

3. Line 114 replace ‘prevalence if enacted’ to ‘prevalence of enacted’
   We have addressed this as shown in line 116

4. Line 123-5. Please consider re-wording the paragraph to improve the flow of the language:
   We will search PubMed, MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, CINAHL and Cochrane library databases from the time of inception up to the time of the systematic review. We shall also identify grey literature through a Google Scholar search.

   We have revised this to read as indicated in lines 124 – 128.

5. Line 132 – 142. Thank you for adding details for the search terms being used in each search line, and how the search lines are combined. Please add the name of database and database host (e.g. CINAHL, EbscoHOST). In order to make the search strategy truly reproducible please indicate which database fields are being searches for each search line. For example, some terms are repeated in S1 and S5. Are you searching the title, abstract, keywords fields? Undertaking a thesaurus search, or searching ‘all fields’ for S1 and for S5? Also, it looks like the final step (search line is missing). Presumably you are combining S7 with S8 with a search string: S9: S7 OR S8. This will bring together your results from searching words in different database fields.

   Thank you for this very useful comment. The names of the databases have been added. We shall search literature by title, abstract and keywords. Some related terms have been combined and the final search line has been added. The changes are indicated in lines 123 – 143.

6. Line 144-155. Please use author initials only under ‘Study and data management’

   We have author initials in the “study and data management section” as shown in lines 146 – 156.
7. Line 157-165. Study selection. There is no mention of what type of studies you will exclude/include. Please state the study designs you will include or make it clear you will consider any study design. Please state you will include published and unpublished studies (you are searching for grey literature so I assume you are open to different publication types). Please state the age range you will consider for children and adolescents. There are different definitions for adolescents/young people and it would be helpful to see if you are reviewing data for very young children.

We have addressed this comment as shown in lines 158 – 166. We shall mainly consider observation/prevalence studies and we shall consider age ranges from 2 to 19 years which will be categorized on analysis.

8. Line 158-159 should mention Epilepsy stigma. The way it is currently written it could mean any type of stigma.

We have addressed this as shown in line 159 – 160.

9. Line 170. Replace ‘This will include; sample size, study setting with ‘This will include: sample size, study setting’

We have addressed this as shown in line 171.

10. Line 173-4. Replace ‘The form will also include pre-specified factors associated with stigma include, gender’ with ‘The form will also include pre-specified factors associated with stigma: gender’

We have addressed this as shown in lines 174 – 5.

11. Line 196-202 Quality assessment tool – why was a prognostic tool chosen when there are tools available for critically appraising prevalence studies.


We have addressed this by choosing to use the critical appraisal tool by Munn Z. et al as described in line 197 – 201. We highly appreciate your advice and guidance on the choice of this tool.

12. Line 246-250. Please give more detail of the contribution made by authors. Who designed the study? Who drafted the initial manuscript? Who developed the search strategy? Selected databases to search? Selected appropriate methods and tools? Who wrote sections of the manuscript.

We have addressed this. More details about the roles of different authors have been stated as shown in lines 246-257.

Once again, we appreciate you very helpful feedback and guidance that has helped us to make our systematic review protocol more credible. We are also grateful for the opportunity granted to us to publish our work with your prestigious journal.

Thank you.