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Title: Prevalence of Epilepsy in Ibanda

Background: Incidence of epilepsy is 49.3 to 190 per 100 000 populations in developing countries compared to 814 per 100000 in Ibanda District in Uganda and about 4121 per 100000 population in Kicuzi Subcounty, Ibanda District . Risk of premature death is two to three times higher in people with epilepsy than in the general population. Epilepsy is common and under-treated in Ibanda and the treatment gap is exacerbated by the sparsity of trained health personnel, the cost and difficulty of access to technical investigation and poorly sustained drug for treatment. The inevitable burden on families and communities includes an average of 24 hours per year spent dealing with ‘moderate’ seizures. We investigated the prevalence of epilepsy and associate factors in Kanywabogo parish.

Methods: A suspected epilepsy case was a resident of Kanywabogo parish, Kicuzi sub-county, Ibanda district; presenting with at least one seizure in 24 hours in the last three months (April – July 17th 2016) in those above 3 years. Health facilities records were reviewed and conduct active community case findings using structured questionnaire and line listing were done in Kanywabogo parish.

Result: District Health Information System reported 2183 cases from Ibanda of which, 663 were from Kicuzi Sub County where Kanywabogo parish is located in 2015 and from community active findings, 101cases were identified and 31(31%) of households had more than one case of epilepsy. Most affected age group is 21-25 years 31(32%) and average age at epilepsy onset is 11 years.

Most affected tribe is Mufubira 75(75%). 85(95%) of the patients normally fetch water from the river and 57(71%) dropped out of school.

Conclusion: There is increasing number of epilepsy cases in Kanywabogo parish and it could be link to blackflies along the river. We recommend that more study should be done to identify causes and anti-epileptic drugs are provided to the patients to ensure start of early treatments.

Key words: Epilepsy, Incidence, Burden, Households