

OP04**Understanding epilepsy: residents' knowledge, experience and attitudes towards epilepsy and its first aid measures in Lagos, Nigeria****Tunde Olobatoko** and Ifeoma Okafor

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Cite: Journal of Global Medicine 2024, 4:51 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.51496/jogm.v4.51.197>**Presenter:** Tunde Olobatoko (tundeolobatoko@gmail.com)*Abstract*

Epilepsy presents a longstanding global challenge, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria, where significant treatment gaps persist [1, 2], despite the increasing prevalence of the disease [3]. Community support plays a vital role in managing People Living with Epilepsy (PLWE), provided community members have a good knowledge of epilepsy [4]. This study evaluated residents' knowledge of epilepsy, its first aid measures, and their attitudes toward PLWE in Surulere LGA, Lagos State, Nigeria.

The study was conducted between April and December 2023 and employed an analytical cross-sectional design in Surulere LGA, Lagos State. The sampling methodology utilised a multistage sampling technique, with 291 respondents surveyed using an interviewer-administered semi-structured questionnaire. Data analysis was performed using IBM SPSS version 26.0, with univariate and bivariate analyses conducted.

All 291 questionnaires were completed, revealing a mean respondent age of 32.3 ± 11.8 years, predominantly spanning 26–45 years (45.4%). Overall, respondents demonstrated good knowledge of epilepsy (51.2%), with over half recognising it as a neurological disease and 56% acknowledging its non-contagious nature. Notably, 82.1% perceived epilepsy as treatable, however, with about half endorsing spiritual or traditional methods. Factors such as prior seizure witness, personal connection to PLWE, and religious affiliation significantly influenced epilepsy knowledge and attitudes.

While residents exhibited a commendable understanding of epilepsy, misconceptions and negative attitudes toward PLWE persist. Efforts should prioritise targeted educational campaigns addressing specific myths and misconceptions, and innovative delivery methods of educational materials should be explored.

Keywords: *epilepsy; first aid measures; Lagos; Nigeria*

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