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Normal profile of females with epilepsy in Nigeria

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Aim: The uncommon occurrence of peri-menstrual (C1) catamenial epilepsy in our routine epilepsy clinic, and the absence of a statistical difference in the frequency of clinically significant sexual dysfunction between female with epilepsy (FWE) and their matched controls informed this study. We compared the sex hormones between FWE and their age-matched controls. We postulated that a difference in etiology, with a higher prevalence of structural etiology in sub-Saharan Africa, may be associated with an unexpected hormonal profile.

Method: An observational study carried out at the University College Hospital, Oyo State – a tertiary hospital in South-Western Nigeria involving seventy five FWE and forty five age-matched controls. Samples for hormonal evaluation at pre-ovulatory phase – on the 10th–13th day of the cycle and luteal phase – on the 21st–24th day were taken

Result: FWE had lower FSH levels when compared to controls, p: 0.012. In the pre-ovulatory phase, Further stratification shows a higher FSH levels among FWE on medication, p: 0.003. Controls had similar LH/FSH ratio with FWE on medication while FWE not on medication having a higher LH/FSH ratio, p: 0.026. In the mid-luteal phase, FSH level was lowest in FWE not on medication), FWE on medication had higher levels but lower when compared to the control group, p: 0.002. FWE had lower progesterone levels when compared with the control group, p: 0.004 with no difference with use of AEDs. The E/P ratio showed a reverse picture with FWE having higher values when compared to controls, p: 0.002. There was no significant difference in the levels of LH, LH/FSH ratio, estrogen, E/P ratio, and testosterone between FWE and controls.

Conclusion: Menstrual abnormalities and abnormal FSH and progesterone are commoner in FWE than controls in our population.

Biography

Temitope Farombi MD, FMCP (Neurology), is a graduate of University of Ibadan. She trained in internal medicine at the University College Hospital (UCH) and Neurology at UCH Ibadan Nigeria. Obtained master's degree in Clinical Neuroscience at King's College London. Temitope is a consultant Neurologist at the Chief Tony Anenih Geriatric center University college hospital, the first geriatric center in West Africa sub-region. Temitope practice specializes in the critical care neurology of the elderly, movement disorders, Dementia and headaches. Temitope was a visiting scholar to the Northwestern University Chicago, USA and has published articles in scientific journals.

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