Infantile Epileptic Spasms: Impact of a Community-driven Awareness Campaign in the North West Region of Cameroon

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Introduction

- Early presentation of children with infantile epileptic spasms syndrome (IESS) for treatment is highly dependent on the ability of parents or caregivers to recognize IESS.
- Low level of awareness and knowledge on IESS in our setting.

Objective

Raise awareness and educate parents on IESS to promote early diagnosis and treatment.

Methods

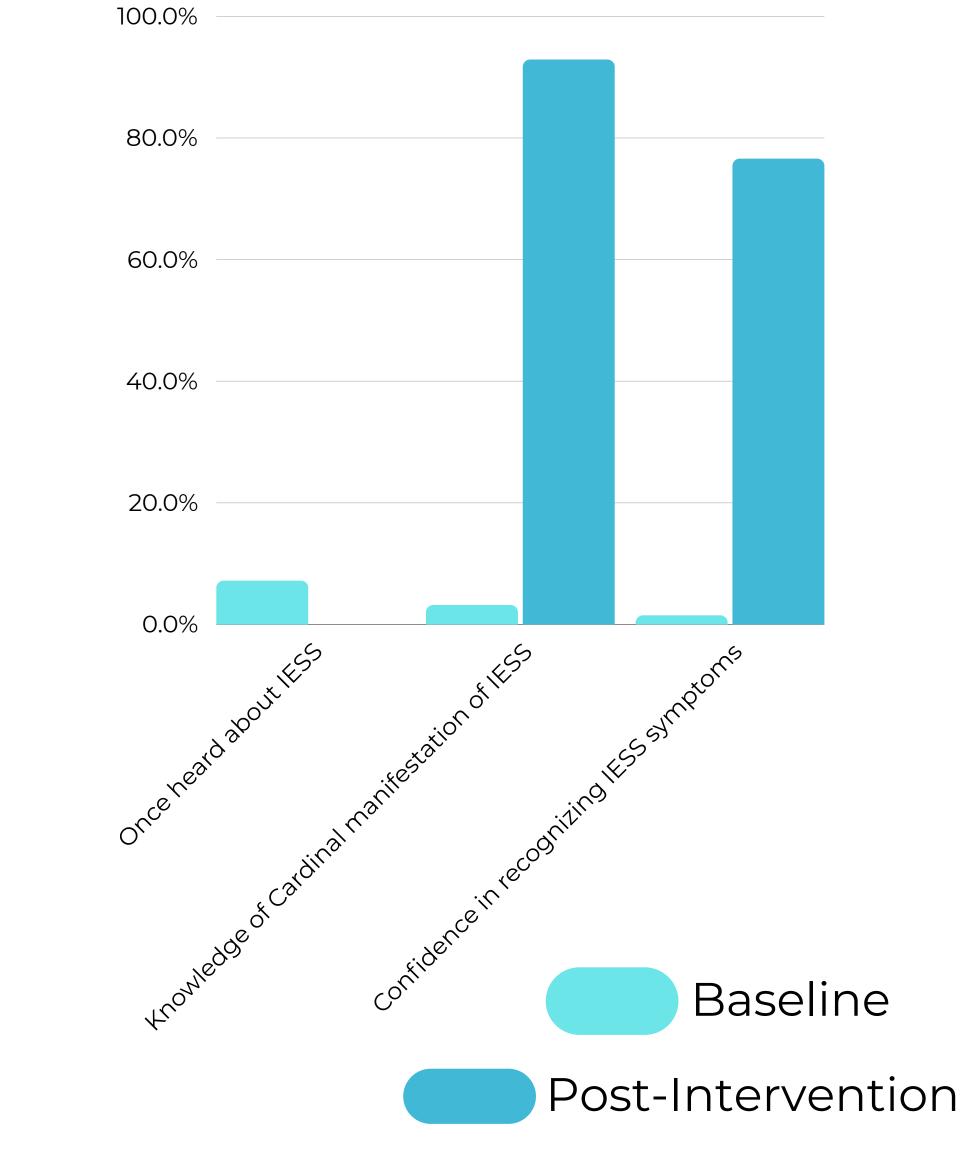
- **Sites:** healthcare facilities in the North-West region of Cameroon, targeting pregnant women
- Target population: Pregnant women and parents of neonates and infants.
- Study period: August 1-31, 2023
- Activities:

 Health talks on IESS

 Projection of videos of IESS cases
- Emphasis on early presentation, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Pre- and post-campaign surveys to assess the impact of the campaign.

Results

- 2560 participants were educated
- 67 healthcare workers trained



 Recorded increase in early presentation of cases in one health facility 6 months after study

Conclusion:

Raising awareness improves public knowledge on IESS leading to early diagnosis, treatment and better outcomes