



Paroxysmal non-epileptic disorders among children and adolescents in Ibadan

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INTRODUCTION

Paroxysmal non-epileptic disorders (PNEDs) are a heterogeneous group of disorders characterized by clinical episodes similar to those of epileptic events but not accompanied by abnormal electrical discharges in the brain. These can be classified as physiological and psychogenic. They include movement disorders, sleep disorders, hypoxic ischaemic events, migraine associated disorders and psychogenic seizures. Few reports exist in Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES

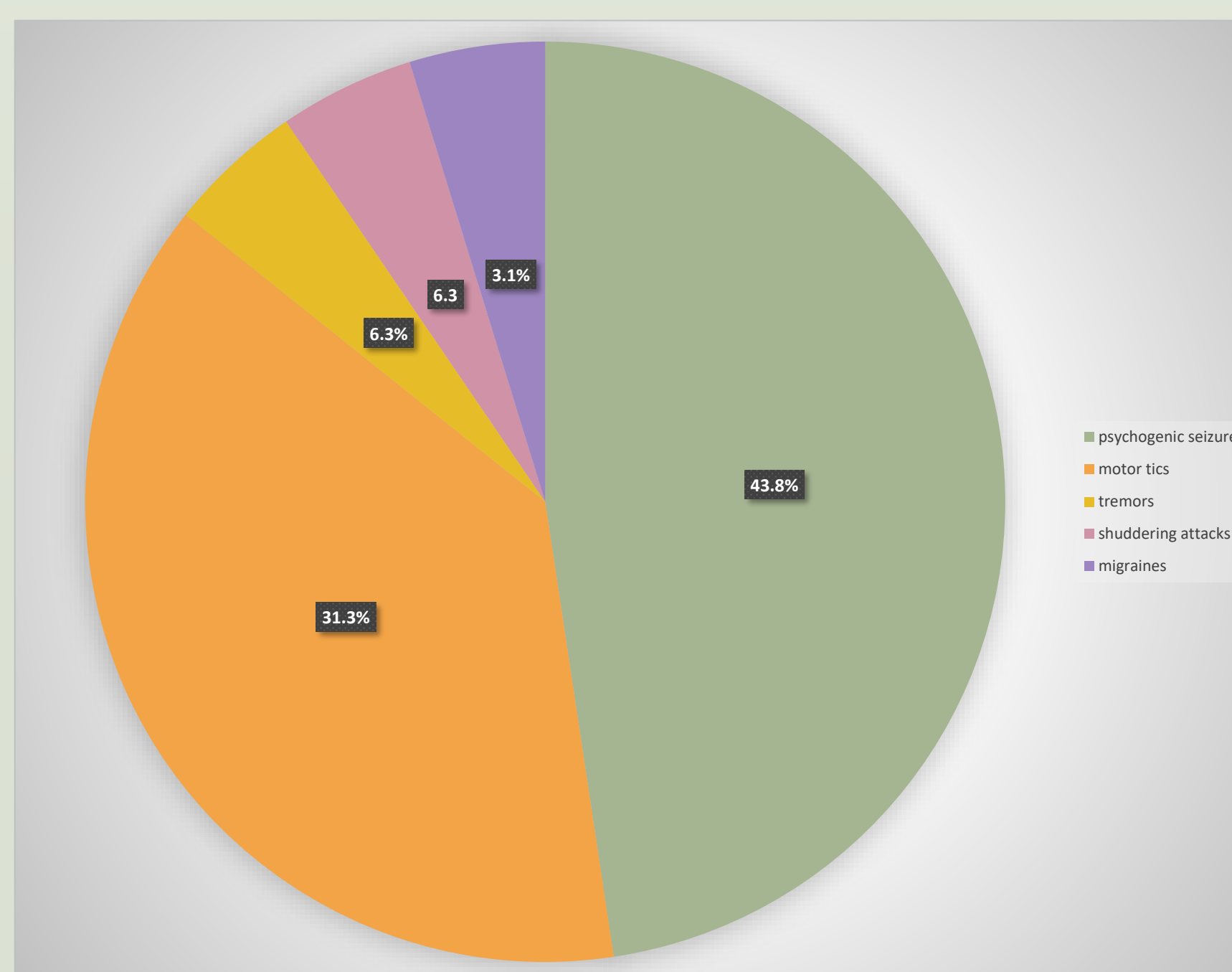
To describe the incidence and clinical characteristics of PNEDs among children presenting at the Paediatric Neurology clinic of UCH, Ibadan.

METHODS

This was a retrospective cross-sectional study conducted at the Paediatric Neurology Clinic from December 2021 to October 2023. Children with a diagnosis of PNED who had been reviewed by the paediatric neurologists and confirmed by electroencephalography (EEG) were identified and clinical characteristics documented.

RESULTS

Thirty two children were identified out of 3104 children who attended the paediatric neurology clinic within the study period giving a prevalence of 1.03%. They were aged 2 to 192 months. Seventeen (53.1%) were females and 15 (46.9%) were males. Fourteen (43.8%) children had psychogenic seizures, 10 (31.3%) had motor tics, and two (6.3%) each had tremors, shuddering attacks and benign sleep myoclonus and one (3.1%) had migraines.



CONCLUSIONS

Prevalence of 1.03% in our population

- low compared to findings in Australia (42.8%), Denmark (47%), US (38.3%) and South Korea (12.9%)
- Few studies found in Nigeria and mostly case reports - likely due to paucity of EEG services

Commonest type seen was psychogenic seizures and this was consistent with findings in South Korea. Found to be commoner in females in this present study and similar to findings in a South Korean study though they found more females in children above 6 years.

Therefore we conclude that PNEDs are not uncommon in Nigeria and may pose a diagnostic challenge in the absence of EEG services.

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