

Development and validation of the Kilifi Epilepsy Beliefs and Attitude Scale

Abstract:

Epilepsy remains misunderstood, particularly in resource poor countries (RPC). We developed and validated a tool to assess beliefs and attitudes about epilepsy among people with epilepsy (PWE) in Kilifi, Kenya. The 50-item scale was developed through a literature review and qualitative study findings, and its reliability and validity were assessed with 673 PWE. A final scale of 34 items had Cronbach's alpha scores for the five subscales: causes of epilepsy ($\alpha=0.71$); biomedical treatment of epilepsy ($\alpha=0.70$); cultural treatment of epilepsy ($\alpha=0.75$); risk and safety concerns about epilepsy ($\alpha=0.56$); and negative attitudes about epilepsy ($\alpha=0.76$) and entire scale ($\alpha=0.70$). Test-retest reliability was acceptable for all the subscales. The Kilifi Epilepsy Beliefs and Attitude Scale is a reliable and valid tool that measures beliefs and attitudes about epilepsy. It may be useful in other RPC or as a tool to assess the effectiveness of interventions to improve knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes about epilepsy.