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Graduated from University of Khartoum (U of K) in January 1994 and did her internship in Sudan. Joined the clinical MD program at U of K and graduated in 2005. She is practicing paediatrics and child health with special interest in paediatric neurology. Together with her colleagues Dr. Ahlam A. Hamed and Dr. Maha A. Elseed they established the first paediatric epilepsy and neurology outpatient clinic in Khartoum.

Currently she is Head of the Neurology Unit at Gaafar Ibn Oaf Children's Hospital.

She is a Paediatric Epilepsy Training Course Level 1(PET 1) Instructor, organized by the British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA), and active member of the Research Council at Gaafar Ibn Oaf Children's Hospital, supervising research theses. She is also an active member of the Examination Committee at the Sudan Medical Specialization Board (SMSB) and has published in peer reviewed journals.

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## Abstract

# Clinical profile of pediatric neurological disorders as seen in outpatient clinic in Khartoum, Sudan

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### Background and objectives:

Neurological disorders account for more than 20% of the world's disease burden with a greater majority of people affected living in Africa. Due to chronicity, late presentation, unavailability of certain diagnostic facilities as well as manpower; neurology services are very challenging with significant increase in morbidity and mortality. This talk aims to demonstrate the pattern of pediatric neurological disorders, reflecting the challenges of investigation and management and expressing the future needs.

### Results:

A total of 6019 patients were enrolled in the study. Their age was between 3 months and 18 years, and male to female ratio was 2:1. The majority of patients were from Khartoum State; however a considerable number of patients came from all over Sudan. The majority of patients had epilepsy and other neurodisabilities including learning difficulties. That amounted for 52.8%, followed by cerebral palsy (19.1%), congenital anomalies of the central nervous system (6.2%), neuromuscular disorders (3.2%), stroke (2.4%), ataxia and movement disorders (1.9%) and specified syndromes (1.2%). Demyelinating disorders, headache, neurodegenerative, mitochondrial and metabolic disorders; hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy, behavioral disorders, in addition to other rare and unresolved conditions accounted for the other 14.4%.

**Conclusion and recommendations:** Neurological disorders constitute a major cause of chronic morbidity in pediatric age group. Appropriate allocation and distribution of relevant resources, and other recommendations will be addressed in this presentation.

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### How to cite this:

Mohammed IN, Elseed MA, Hamed AA. Clinical profile of pediatric neurological disorders as seen in outpatient clinic in Khartoum, Sudan (Abstract). Sudan J Paediatr 2015; 15(1):116 - 117.

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