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### Original Article

## Relationship of age of onset of epilepsy to history of febrile seizures and neurocognitive deficit among hausas of northern nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

Fever is characterized by increase in the temperature of nervous tissue which could enhance the rate, or magnitude of neuronal firing, leading to seizures. This study was designed to investigate the relationship between the age of onset of seizure with gender, history of febrile seizure and neurocognitive deficit among the Hausas of Northern Nigeria. It was a prospective study involving 105 epilepsy patients (61 males and 44 females) of a wide age spectrum. A Pearson's Chi square was used to establish a relationship between the variables of interest. The data was analyzed using SPSS version 20 with  $P < 0.05$  as level of significance. The result showed that there was no gender difference in the age of onset of seizure in the study group. A relationship was observed between age of onset of seizure with history of febrile seizure ( $\chi^2 = 18.01$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and neuronal deficit ( $\chi^2 = 12.93$ ,  $P = 0.002$ ). A significant relationship was also noticed between neuronal deficit and febrile seizure ( $\chi^2 = 4.02$ ,  $P = 0.045$ ). In conclusion, age of onset of febrile seizure may be one of the markers to be used in ruling out some of the epilepsy associated disorders or problems.

Keywords: Age, epilepsy, fever, neurocognitive deficit, Hausas.

