

Thanks for opportunity to review revised manuscript entitled “Incidence, risk factors, and management of Bell's palsy in the Qurayyat region of Saudi Arabia” for Peerj Journal. The author/authors examined the incidence of Bely's palsy. Although authors slightly improved the manuscript from the first review the article, the article still requires significant improvements in almost all sections. Most of revisions also not adequate and some of them are wrong. Overall, as an experienced article editor and reviewer, I think this article still not suitable for publication in this journal and requires a major revision.

### **General**

1. Along the manuscript reporting the statistics are wrong. Authors must correct this problem along the manuscript. I provided some examples as follows. Authors reported the frequencies as (n=12,7.0%). Correct reporting is ( $n = 12, 7.0\%$ ). Another example reporting chi square statistics. Authors reported like this  $\chi^2(6, N = 171)$  but correct form is  $\chi^2(6, N = 171) = 16.35, p = 0.012$ . Moreover, authors inconsistently reported statistics along the manuscript sometimes reported two decimal, sometimes reported three decimal to findings. Authors must consistently report consistently two decimal after the dot except for  $p$  value. Moreover, authors reporting standard is not consistent with Peerj.
2. The in-text citations of manuscript is not consistent with writing rules of Peerj. Authors must correct this along the manuscript. For example, (Greco et al.) must be (Greco et al., 2012). Another example is (Colella et al., ) (Potterton) and must be (Potterton, 2015; Colella et al., 2021). All in text citations are wrong and must be corrected.
3. Authors must edit the manuscript from a professional proofreading company after possible revisions. It is very difficult to understand most sentence, and a lot of writing mistakes exist. A lot of sentence used without citations when necessary.
4. Title must be revised as follow: Incidence rate, risk factors, and management of Bell's palsy in the Qurayyat region of Saudi Arabia”
5. I think all incidence statements must revise as incidence rates. I looked the definition of incidence rate and this is exactly what authors to do.

The term incidence rate refers to the rate at which a new event occurs over a specified period of time. Put simply, the incidence rate is the number of new cases within a time period (the numerator) as a proportion of the number of people at risk for the disease (the denominator).

[https://www.cdc.gov/STD/Sassi/Module2/how\\_to\\_calculate\\_incidence\\_rate.html](https://www.cdc.gov/STD/Sassi/Module2/how_to_calculate_incidence_rate.html)

## New Necessary Revisions

6. Abstract, Line 26: Data is a plural noun. Thus, ‘ ‘The data was.....’ ’ must be ‘ ‘Data were.....’ ’
7. Abstract, Line 31: (n=147, 86.0%) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
8. Abstract, Line 33: (n = 76, 44.4%). in this n must be italic
9. Abstract, Line 34-35: (n = 96, 56.1%) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
10. Abstract, Line 36-37: ( $\chi^2(6, N = 171) = 14.926, P = 0.021$ ),  $\chi^2(6, N = 171) = 16.354, P = 0.012$ , this must be corrected as ( $\chi^2(6, N = 171) = 14.93, p = 0.021$ ),  $\chi^2(6, N = 171) = 16.35, p = 0.012$
11. Abstract, Line 40: (n=149, 87.1 %) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
12. Abstract, Line 41: (n=61, 35.7%) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
13. Abstract, Line 41: (n=35, 20.5%) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
14. Abstract, Line 42: (n=32, 18.7%) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
15. Abstract, Line 43: (n=2, 1.2%) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =
16. Abstract, Keywords: Authors must use comma between the keywords. They must not use ;
17. Introduction, Line 62: Please check and correct citation JI et al.
18. Introduction, Line 67: 27.8 % must be 27.8%
19. Introduction, Line 67: 26.3 % must be 26.3%
20. Method, Line 96: Study design and settings: must report as subtitle not like this. The same thing also valid for Study Method: For example,  
Study design and settings  
The study .....
21. Method, Line 96: Please revise following sentence ‘ ‘The study is a retrospective cross-sectional hospital-based study.’ ’ One revision may be that ‘ ‘This research was a retrospective cross-sectional hospital-based study.’ ’
22. Method, Line 107: Study Method section must rename as Procedure.
23. Method, Line 122: Authors added a questionnaire but it is in Arabic language and not possible to control it. Author must upload questionnaire in English. Moreover, in this section authors must give more information about content of questionnaire. This section gives nothing

about content of questionnaire. Authors specifically, give information about asked questions in this sections with response options. Moreover following statement ‘ ‘The internal consistency of the 28 item questionnaire was 0.716 calculated by Cronbach's alpha.’’ Was wrong and must remove from manuscript. Authors can only calculate if questionnaire content aim the measure the same underlying construct.

24. Method, Line 130: The sample size calculation title must be revised as Population and Sample. Moreover, authors must add following information to this section. At worst, authors must add, The gender distribution of sample, and the mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum values of age.

25. Method, General: Authors must rearrange Method section with subtitles as follows with the same order. Study design and settings, Population and Sample, Questionnaire, Procedure, and Statistical Analyses.

26. Method, Line 141: What is abbreviation of MOH?, This is the first use and author must provide long name of this.

27. Method, Line 144-145: Authors must narratively add incidence formula or must cite a researcher for formula. For example, Incidence formula proposed by .....used to calculate incidence rate in Qurayyat region of Saudi Arabia.

26. Results, Line 147: (*n = 147, 86%*) in this n must be italic.

27. Results, Line 148: (*n=76,44.4%*) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =

28. Results, Line 149: (*n=11,6.4%*) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =

29. Results, Line 150: (*n=129, 75.45%*) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =

30. Results, Line 150: (*n=18, 10.5%*) in this n must be italic add a space before and after =

31. Results, Line 151: Following sentences must be corrected ‘ ‘There were *n=21 (12.3%)* participants vaccinated before experiencing Bell’s Palsy.’’ The correct version is ‘ ‘There were *21 (12.3%)* participants vaccinated before experiencing Bell’s Palsy.’’

32. Results, Line 151: (Table 1). Must be after the sentence ‘ ‘There was a significant number of participants (*n=135,78.9%*) exposed to cold air before experiencing Bell’s Palsy.’’

33. Results, Line 155:  $\chi^2 (5, N = 171) = 14.926, P = 0.011$ , this must be corrected as  $\chi^2 (5, N = 171) = 14.93, p = 0.011$

34. Results, Line 156-157: the following information in the text ‘ ‘The post hoc analysis with Bonferroni correction and adjusted P-value of 0.0072 to be significant at the  $P < 0.05$  level, revealed 21-30 year age group was significantly affected.’’ and Table 1 is not consistent with each other.

35. Results, Line 158: and  $n=20$  must be revised as 20

36. Results, Line 157: P-value of 0.0072 must be p-value of 0.007

37. Results, Line 157:  $P < 0.05$  level must be  $p < 0.05$  level

38. Results, General: Statistical analyses reported in the text and in the Table is not consistent with each other. Authors must carefully check both of them and correct this. Moreover, in the Table 1 analysis of COVID vaccination is missing. Moreover, analyses regarding to Related Samples Cochran's Q Test is wrong. It is used in repeated measures design and must be corrected.

39. Results, General: Statistical symbols in the following sentences must be corrected as indicated in above. Please look comment 26 to comment 33.

consanguinity with gender, onset and reoccurrence of Bell's Palsy but consanguinity showed significant relationship with side affected and age group,  $\chi^2 (2, N = 171) = 12.090, P = 0.002$ ,  $\chi^2 (5, N = 171) = 13.025, P = 0.023$  respectively, The main therapeutic approach preferred was physiotherapy ( $n=149, 87.1\%$ ), followed by corticosteroids and antiviral drugs ( $n=61, 35.7\%$ ), acupuncture ( $n=35, 20.5\%$ ), traditional Saudi herb medicine ( $n=32, 18.7\%$ ), cauterization by hot iron rod ( $n=23, 13.5\%$ ), supplementary therapy (vitamins and neuro-vitality drugs ( $n=2, 1.2\%$ ), facial cosmetic surgery ( $n=1, 0.6\%$ ) and no treatment ( $n=1, 0.6\%$ ). The most preferred combination therapy was physiotherapy (87.6%) with corticosteroid and antiviral drugs (35.9%), and acupuncture (17.6%) (Table 2) There were relatively less number of participants suffering from ear infection ( $n=28, 16.4\%$ ), diabetes ( $n=23, 13.5\%$ ), genetic disease ( $n=20, 11.7\%$ ), high blood pressure ( $n=18, 10.5\%$ ), neurological disorder ( $n=16, 9.4\%$ ), head injury ( $n=11, 6.4\%$ ), balance problem ( $n=10, 5.8\%$ ) stroke ( $n=3, 1.8\%$ ), and heart disease ( $n=3, 1.8\%$ ) (Figure 2).

40. Clinical Implications section must significantly improve. Authors must add at least three to four sentences in this section.

