

Epilepsy on Radio 2025.

December 15, 2025

Report.

Epilepsy on radio program was carried out from the 1st of October 2025 to the end of November 2025.

The program was initially supposed to last for the whole of October but because of demands from listeners it was divided into two: October and November.

The October program involved weekly radio programs on three radio stations: Solid Fm, Urban Fm and Divine Fm. Solid Fm was carried out on Saturdays from 3 -4 pm, Urban Fm on Tuesdays from 2-3 pm and Divine Fm on Saturdays from 1-2 pm.

These radio stations covered the entire southeast Nigeria.

The contents of the program followed previously outlined contents: definition of epilepsy. Risk factors, clinical manifestations, familiar and unfamiliar manifestations, epilepsy and school, stigma, epilepsy and family, treatment and complications. Efforts were made to incorporate the cultural misunderstandings into the talks and differentiate facts from myths.

During the programs a lot of phone calls were received, and personal calls were made to the resource persons after the program for more clarifications.

Most of the calls suggested that people still believed that epilepsy is not treatable because most had abandoned previously commenced medications. Many of the callers had previously been to the teaching hospital as well as to traditional healers. Many called to thank us and were encouraged to continue their treatment. Another interesting thing was the number of well educated and highly placed individuals who called and said they had epilepsy who encouraged us to continue.

Because of the timings of the radio programs, we set out to see patients within the 4 weeks of November. Many patients did actually come even on ordinary days outside Saturday. Those who came from far places had their transport fares refunded.

The resource persons that participated included 3 consultants from adult neurology and one from paediatric neurology. Three senior registrars from adult neurology and a staff of our foundation.

Limitations. Many callers wished that the program would last longer. Others suggested that we should go to the villages to treat people. There were also requests for free medications.

Thanks