

## Depressive Symptoms Amongst People with Podoconiosis and Lower Limb Lymphoedema of Other Cause in Cameroon: A Cross-Sectional Study

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### Abstract

Evidence is emerging that shows elevated mental distress and disorder amongst people with several neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). This study aimed to establish the prevalence of depressive symptoms amongst people with podoconiosis and lower limb lymphoedema of other cause in Cameroon. The study was part of a larger research piece that mapped the geographical distribution of podoconiosis in Cameroon. The Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9; mean) was employed to determine the prevalence of depressive symptoms amongst people with lower limb lymphoedema. Linear regression was used to assess the association between socio-demographic characteristics of participants and depressive symptoms. Internal consistency of the PHQ-9 was estimated through Cronbach's alpha ( $\alpha = 0.651$ ). The mean PHQ-9 score among people with lower limb lymphoedema was 3.48 (SD  $\pm$  3.25). Using a PHQ-9 score of 5 or above as the cut-off score, 32 participants (38.6%) displayed at least mild depressive symptoms. Unemployment was the only factor that was significantly associated with more depressive symptoms overall. This study shows that depressive symptoms are common amongst people with lower limb lymphoedema in Cameroon. The findings provide support for the integration of psychosocial interventions into packages of care for the management of lower limb lymphoedema.



### Biography

Prof Amuam Andrew Beng is the Nurse Educator in University of Buea. His/Her research expertise is Nursing, HIV/AIDS Stigma, Qualitative Research; Phenomenology. Amuam Andrew Beng have 17 research works with 37 citations and 1341 reads.

### Publications

1. Validation of Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification for the Detection of Loa loa Infection in Chrysops sp in Experimental and Natural Field Conditions
2. Differential susceptibility of Onchocerca volvulus microfilaria to ivermectin in two areas of contrasting history of mass drug administration in Cameroon: Relevance of microscopy and molecular techniques for the monitoring of skin microfilarial repopulation within six months of direct observed treatment
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4. Depressive Symptoms Amongst People with Podoconiosis and Lower Limb Lymphoedema of Other Cause in Cameroon: A Cross-Sectional Study
5. Predicted distribution and burden of podoconiosis in Cameroon - Supplementary Information

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