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Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJTDH_14461
Title of the Manuscript:	Rabies Virus Neutralizing Antibodies In Unvaccinated Rabies Occupational Risk Groups In Niger State, Nigeria
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	The paper deals with an age old finding reported several times in literature without adding any additional new scientific information The authors should have discussed the recent discovery of so called “natural antibodies” and their relevance in the context of viral infections. There are ample papers on this phenomenon For ages we are finding so called “antibodies” to rabies virus in previously un vaccinated or exposed people. There is a strong belief that there are inhibitors of Viral replication in serum other than specific antibodies. This aspect needs to be discussed One way addressing whether these antibodies detected are specific for rabies antigen and indeed they are true immune response can be resolved by administration of booster doses of rabies vaccination and see if there is rapid elevation of titers of so called rabies antibodies	While there are reports of rabies antibodies in unvaccinated individuals (which have been cited), yet this is the first report in the study area targeting these risk groups which is a new or additional finding. Papers on ‘natural antibodies’ to rabies virus have been consulted and included in the discussion (see shaded references in the ref list). Latency or abortive or rabies antigens in apparently healthy dogs are available to us. Even dog brain samples collected from the study area showed presence of rabies antigen in 3 out of 471 dog brains There are viral inhibitors such as interferon, the T-helper cells, B –cells they are now included in our discussion see the shaded areas Each research has its boundaries, given booster doses though recommended but follow up to see increase in titres is beyond the scope of this research, but will be



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	Most importantly the study should also include healthy individuals who were not in the exposure risk category . We have demonstrated these so called rabies antibodies in healthy medical students who were never vaccinated against rabies nor had animal contact. Through out the manuscript there are several grammatical mistakes and language needs to be improvised.	considered a challenge for future research. However, the RFFIT test employed in this study is a standard technique recommended by both WHO and OIE for detecting immune response to rabies infection or vaccination As said earlier, this study as titled is restricted to occupational risks individuals for now, in future we may extend to other category of non risks volunteers accordingly Thanks for the comment this has been taken care of.
Minor REVISION comments	The authors should have discussed this age old finding in light of resent knowledge In immunology. The paper is of poor grammar and English quality	Thanks, and we have taken care of that especially talking about the T helper cell and their contribution in immunological response. The language and grammar has been improved
Optional/General comments		