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DIABETIC NEUROPATHY: AN EVALUATION USING THE NTSS-6 QUESTIONNAIRE AND BIOTHESIOMETRY IN TYPE 2 DM PATIENTS IN SOUTHWEST NIGERIA.



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*” **Background & objectives:** Vibration perception threshold (VPT) is the gold standard for diagnosis of diabetic peripheral neuropathy. The relationship between symptom severity and VPT remains to be determined. This study was carried out to evaluate the objectivity of symptoms using the NTSS-6 and Bio-Thesiometry.*

” **Methods:**The study was conducted in the Diabetes Clinic of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Ile Ife, a tertiary care hospital in South West, Nigeria, A cross-sectional case control study involving *110 diabetes patients with symptoms suggestive of peripheral neuropathy as well as 40 apparently healthy control. Detailed clinical history were taken and subject were examined*

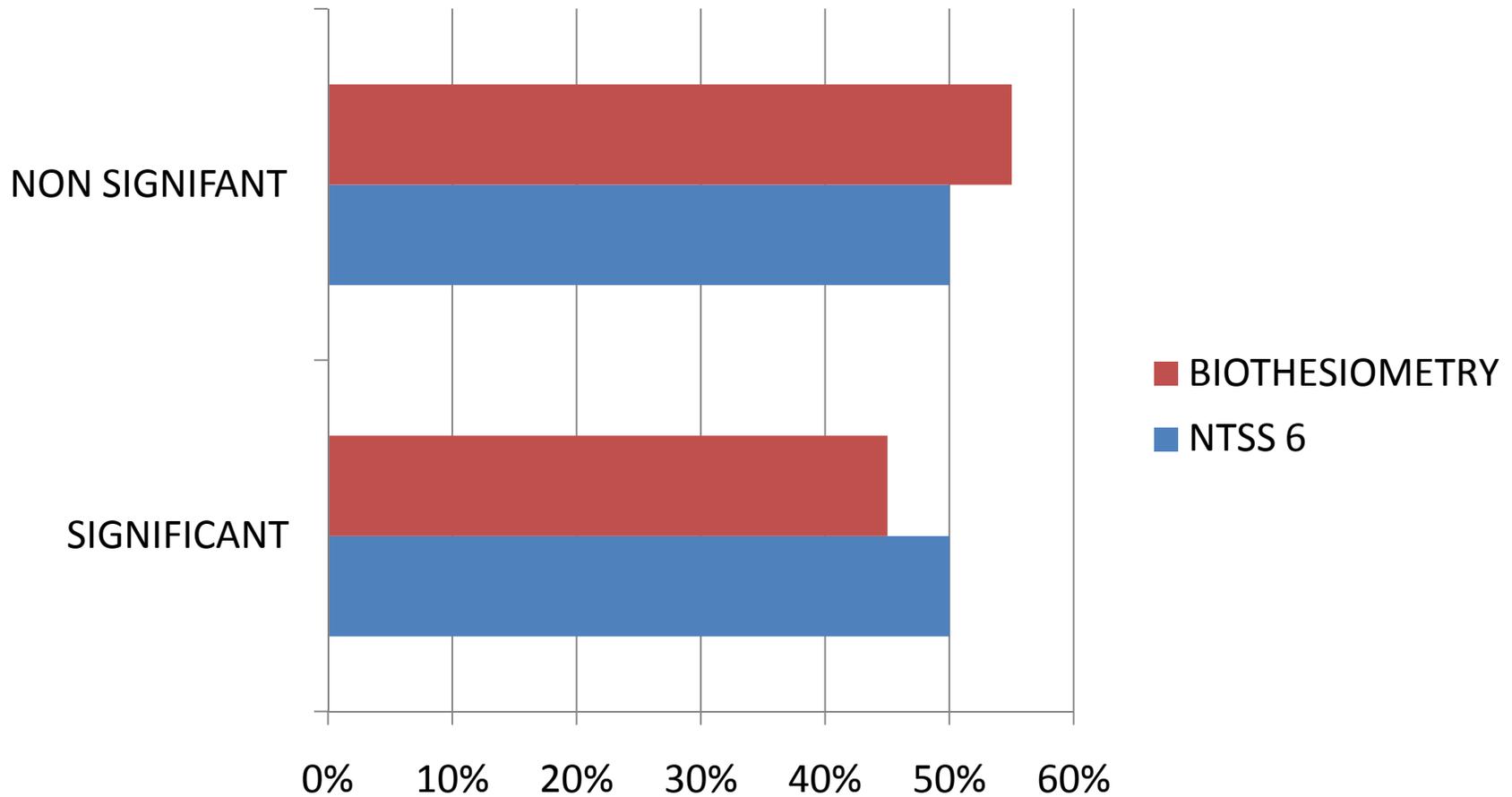
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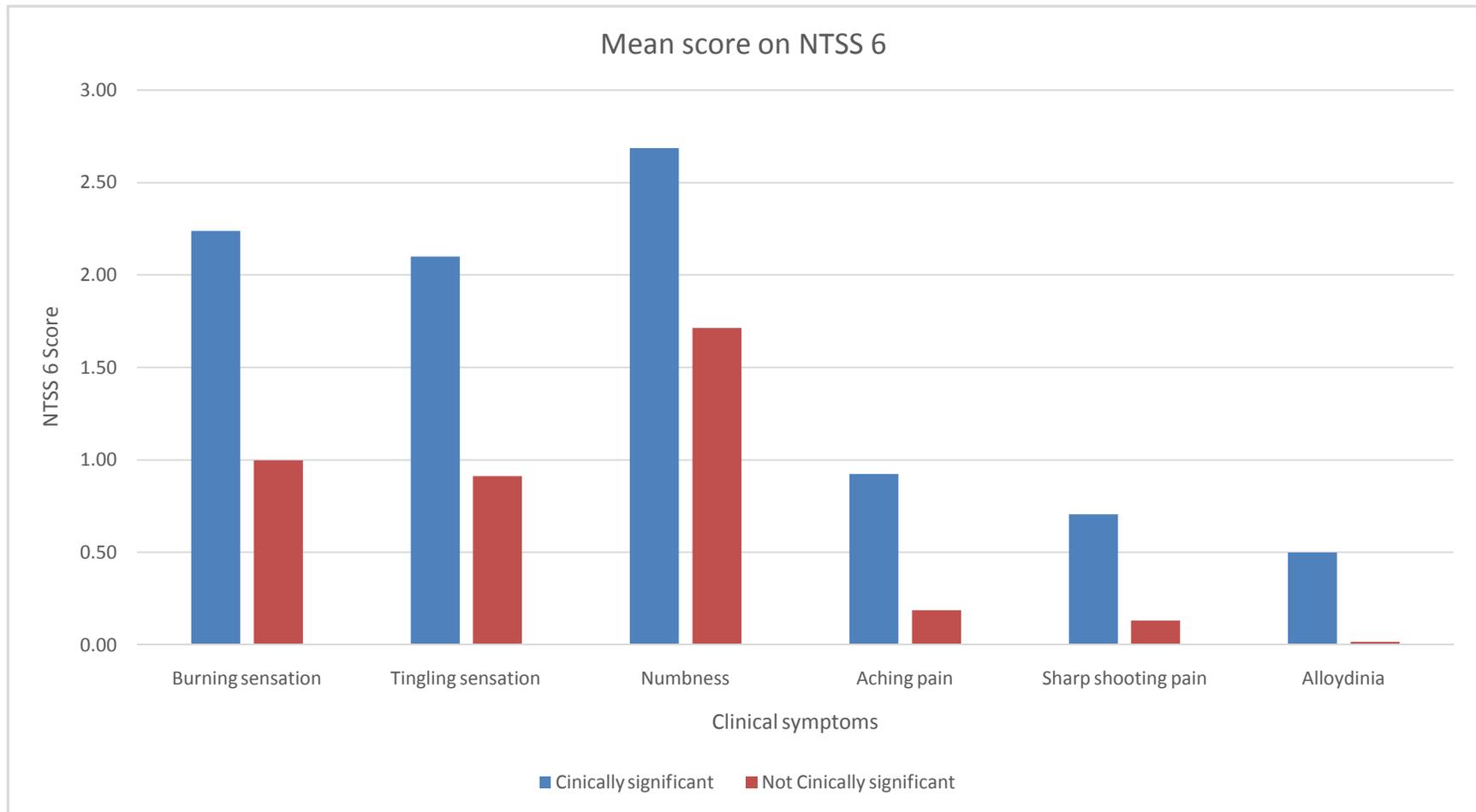
“ *Neuropathy total symptoms score-6 questionnaires was administered* . The questionnaire, evaluates for the frequency and intensity of 6 core symptoms of peripheral neuropathy, Possible scores for the NTSS-6 range from 0-21.96. Clinical significant symptoms was defined as an NTSS-6 total score greater than 6.

“ *vibration perception threshold (VPT) was tested with a biothesiometer model Biothezi-VPT from Kody Medical Electronics PVT LTD*

- “ **Results:** The prevalence of peripheral neuropathy using the NTSS-6 scoring system was 50% while VPT using biothesiometer was 45.5%.
- “ Significant correlations were observed between the NTSS-6 score and the VPT score. (p -value =0.002 (r) 0.588).
- “ The NTSS-6 scoring had a sensitivity of 66% and a specificity of 66.3%. Age and BMI were statistically significantly associated with clinically significant neuropathy. Numbness

Prevalence of Clinically significant neuropathy





- “ **Interpretation & conclusions:** *The findings show that Symptoms suggestive of peripheral neuropathy (PN) in diabetes mellitus (DM) do not always indicate presence of underlying PN. Neuropathy questionnaires are useful for assessing peripheral diabetic neuropathy and correlate well with biothesiometry finding.*
- “ **Key words:** *Diabetic mellitus, peripheral neuropathy, Neuropathy total symptoms score-6, Bio-thesiometry.*