

The dilemma of seizure and pseudo seizures

A K Roy, Siddhesh R Hegde, Uday Murgod and Pramod Krishnan
Manipal Hospital, India

Introduction: Seizures are abnormal CNS function presumably caused by “Seizure” discharges from cerebral neurons. Pseudo seizures are episodic abnormal behavior, which are determined motivationally. In many circumstances the distinction is subtle and may be difficult. Since prognosis treatment and disposal of such cases is different the initial medical investigation, usually by the family physician, plays a pivotal role. He or she must be well versed with the distinctive features of pseudo seizures. Salient features of pseudo seizures are described which may be useful in evaluation. Pseudo seizures are of two types. When the motivation for abnormal behavior is conscious and purposeful they are called malingering and when the pseudo seizures are motivated subconsciously, the condition is called psychogenic caused by failure of ego-coping mechanism.

Case report: A 23 year old unmarried female presented to our hospital with complaints of jerky movements on the left side which generalized. She had previously consulted her family physician, who made a diagnosis of psychogenic seizures. There was no up rolling of eyes, no tongue bite no post ictal features. A MRI scan brain and EEG was done which showed normal study. A diagnosis of pseudo-seizure was made. She was counseled but still she continued to have seizures. During an acute episode her serum cortisol and prolactin levels were checked and found to be elevated. She was given Inj Lacosamide 100 mg bd and she responded to treatment. She was discharged on Tab lacosamide 50 mg bd. So the inference from this case is psychogenic and seizures should be with diagnosis of exclusion and the serum prolactin and serum cortisol levels should be evaluated in cases of seizure disorder.

Biography

A K Roy has completed his MBBS in year 1969. He has completed his MD and DM in prestigious institutes of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, India and All India Institute of Medical College, New Delhi respectively. He has served for Indian air force as Medical Officer, Medical Specialist and Neuro Physician. He also has worked as a Professor in St. John's Medical College Hospital, India. Presently he is a Visiting Consultant at Manipal Hospital, CMH Hospital Bangalore, India.

roy_ajit@hotmail.com

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