



## Editorial Note on Epilepsy

Sarilla Gowthami\*

*Department of Biochemistry, Osmania University, Telangana, India*

### EDITORIAL NOTE

Epilepsy is a disorder of the brain characterized by repeated seizures. A seizure is typically defined as a sudden alteration of behavior thanks to a short-lived change within the electrical functioning of the brain. Normally, the brain continuously generates tiny electrical impulses in an orderly pattern. These impulses follow neurons – the network of nerve cells within the brain – and throughout the entire body via chemical messengers called neurotransmitters.

In epilepsy the brain's electrical rhythms have a bent to become imbalanced, leading to recurrent seizures. In patients with seizures, the traditional electrical pattern is disrupted by sudden and synchronized bursts of electricity which will briefly affect their consciousness, movements or sensations.

Epilepsy is typically diagnosed after an individual has had a minimum of two seizures that weren't caused by some known medical condition, like alcohol withdrawal or extremely low blood glucose.

If seizures arise from a selected area of the brain, then the initial symptoms of the seizure often reflect the functions of that area. the proper half the brain controls the left side of the body, and therefore the left half the brain.

controls the proper side of the body. for instance, if a seizure starts from the proper side of the brain within the area that controls movement within the thumb, then the seizure may begin with jerking of the left thumb or hand.

According to the Epilepsy Foundation, epilepsy affects three million people within the U.S. and 50 million worldwide. Epileptic seizures could also be tied to brain injury or genetics, except for 70 percent of epilepsy patients, the cause is unknown. The Epilepsy Therapy Project notes that 10 percent of individuals will have seizures in their lifetime.

Epilepsy affects quite 300,000 children under the age of 15 – and quite 90,000 children during this group have seizures that can't be adequately treated. The onset rate starts to extend when individuals age, particularly as they develop strokes, brain tumors or Alzheimer's disease, all of which can cause epilepsy.

Reports indicate that quite 570,000 adults over the age of 65 suffer from the disorder.

More men than women have epilepsy. Children and adolescents are more likely to possess epilepsy of unknown or genetic origin. Brain injury or infection can cause epilepsy at any age. The Epilepsy Foundation also reports that 70 percent of youngsters and adults with newly diagnosed epilepsy are often expected to enter remission after having gone five years or more without a seizure while on medication. additionally, 75 percent of individuals who are seizure-free on medication are often weaned from medication eventually. consistent with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, 20 percent of epilepsy patients have intractable seizures – seizures that don't answer treatment

Epilepsy could also be treated with antiepileptic medications (AEDs), diet therapy and surgery. Medications are the initial treatment choice for nearly all patients with multiple seizures. Some patients who only have one seizure and whose tests don't indicate a high likelihood of seizure recurrence might not need medications. The medications treat the symptoms of epilepsy (the seizures), instead of curing the underlying condition. they're highly effective and completely control seizures within the majority (approximately 70%) of patients. The drugs prevent seizures from starting by reducing the tendency of brain cells to send excessive and confused electrical signals.

With many various antiepileptic drugs currently available, choosing the proper medication for a private patient has become complicated. Choice of medication depends on a spread of things, a number of which include the sort of seizure and sort of epilepsy, the likely side effects of the medication, other medical conditions the patient may have, potential interactions with the patient's other medications, age, gender and price of the medication.

Before any drug is prescribed, patients should discuss potential benefits, side effects and risks with their doctors.

Diet therapy could also be utilized in some patients with specific sorts of epilepsy. the foremost common diets utilized are the ketogenic diet and therefore the modified Atkins diet.

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\*Correspondence to: Sarilla Gowthami, Department of Biochemistry, Osmania University, India.

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