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The clinical presentations of Epilepsy among adult Sudanese patients and its correlation with stigma and psychogenic non epileptic seizures during October 2016-April 2017

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Objective: This study aimed to determine the clinical presentations of epilepsy and its correlation with stigma of epilepsy and occurrence of psychogenic non epileptic seizures.

Materials & Methods: This is a prospective cross-sectional health facility based study that was conducted on 66 patients with epilepsy aged from 18-71 years attending Banat Charity Clinic in Omdurman city. Verbal consent was obtained from participants and a predesigned structured questionnaire was used to interview them. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 23.

Results: Out of 66 patients 39 (60%) were males and 26 (40%) were females. Generalized seizure types constituted 50 (75.7%), while focal seizure types constituted 14 (21.2%). Generalized tonic clonic was the commonest seizure type 45 (68.2), followed by focal motor seizure with impaired awareness 10 (15.1%), focal to bilateral 4 (6%), myoclonic and atypical absence 2 (3%) each and clonic seizure 1 (1.5%), two data were missing. Regarding stigma, 22.7% had felt stigma, 7.6% had courtesy stigma, 27.3% had coaching stigma, and 16.7% had coping stigma. Psychogenic non epileptic seizures (PNES) co-existed with epilepsy in 21.2%. PNES, type of epilepsy and educational level were statistically associated with stigma of epilepsy.

Conclusion: The clinical presentation of epilepsy, co-existence of psychogenic non epileptic seizures and epilepsy, and stigma were different from what was mentioned in the literature.

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