

WORLD BRAIN CONGRESS

December 05-07, 2018 Dubai, UAE

Prolonged video-EEG in identifying paroxysmal non-epileptic events in children with epilepsy: A useful tool

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Habitual events, behaviors and non-epileptic events can be easily confused with epileptic seizures in children in the absence of clear description and can be challenging, even for an experienced clinician. The aim was to report on the usefulness of adding video-EEG to routine EEG studies of infants and children with frequent atypical paroxysmal events. A retrospective analysis of video-EEG carried over a 2-year period in a tertiary pediatric neurology center. Outcomes were classified as conclusive epileptic, conclusive non-epileptic, unremarkable and inconclusive. 44 children (M: F 19:25) with an age range of 1 to 15 years (mean: 7 years, median: 8.5 years) were analyzed. 30 (68%) children had successful epilepsy classification. A diagnosis of a specific non-epileptic event was reached in 55% of cases. Antiepileptic drugs were discontinued completely in 8 patients (20%) and the total number of antiepileptic drugs was reduced in 13 others (33%). Paroxysmal non-epileptic events can cause diagnostic confusion, particularly in children with developmental delay, epilepsy (especially refractory epilepsy), or those with previous "abnormal" EEG. Accurate diagnosis can be reached in the majority of cases using prolonged video-EEG monitoring.

Biography

Aman PS Sohal is a U.K Board certified Consultant Pediatric Neurologist with over 11 years of experience in Pediatrics which includes more than five years of experience as a Consultant in Pediatric Neurology. He completed his comprehensive postgraduate training in General Pediatrics and Neonatology as a pediatric resident and registrar in prestigious Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool U.K. He obtained his Membership of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health (MRCPCH), U.K in 2006. He then trained as a senior registrar in the field of Pediatric Neurology from The Great North Children's Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, U.K. He was awarded Completion of Certified Training (CCT) in Pediatric Neurology and Pediatrics by the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health in 2012. Dr Sohal is one of the very few Pediatric Neurologists in the U.K who also trained in Pediatric Neurophysiology as a post CCT fellow. Due to his additional experience he is proficient in interpreting and carrying out pediatric EEG's, Nerve conduction study and Needle Electromyography.

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