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The association of temporal lobe epilepsy with mental health or psychiatric disorder

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Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE) is defined as a condition characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures, originating from medial and lateral temporal lobe. This common type of epilepsy is sometimes difficult to diagnose, but once diagnosed it can be effectively treated with medication. Patients exhibit a varying severity of affective, behavioral, psychotic or personality, psychotic or personality abnormalities, which in turn, may not only lead to misdiagnosis, but also affect the management of TLE. EEG remains the primary diagnostic test of brain function such as seizures or epilepsy, head injuries, dizziness, headaches, brain tumors, sleeping disorders, stroke and dementia. Activation procedures may be carried out. This includes hyperventilation (rapid, deep breathing) and photic stimulation (rhythmic flashes of a bright light). These additional procedures may evoke abnormalities that did not occur during the artefact free EEG recording. Very serious consequences can occur if misdiagnosis is made, as it can often lead to the incorrect medication being prescribed, which in some cases worsens the seizures or may exacerbate other symptoms such as depression and or panic. Epilepsy and psychiatric disorder are not mutually exclusive diagnosis and could easily co-exist. Overlooking either diagnosis in a patient afflicted with both could possibly lead to treatment failures.

Biography

Jamila Khatoon Adam is the Chairperson of the Institutional Research Ethics Committee at the Durban University of Technology, Durban, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. She has published more than 30 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as Editorial Board Member of two international journals and as a Reviewer for 8 national and international journals. She was also a recipient of national and international awards for her contribution to medical research.

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