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Intravenous immunoglobulins for children refractory epilepsy

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Statement of the Problem: This study was conducted to investigate the efficacy of intravenous immunoglobulin for drug-resistant seizures in children referred to pediatric neurology clinic.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: A retrospective review of all children in Loghman Hakim Hospital Neurology Clinic from 2012 to 2015, inclusive, with intractable epilepsy, who were treated with intravenous immunoglobulin for a minimum of 3 cycles, was performed. Data collected included seizure frequency, seizure and epilepsy syndrome type, probable etiology for the seizures, and response to intravenous immunoglobulin was defined as “positive” if either seizure freedom or $\geq 50\%$ reduction of seizures was achieved.

Findings: Fourteen children (8 m-12 years) were included in the study. After treatment with intravenous immunoglobulin, the following outcomes were noted, three were seizure-free, four had 90% reduction, two had 50% reduction, three had 30% reduction and two showed no response. A total of 9 (64%) patients had a positive clinical response to IVIG treatment from baseline. Five patients (36%) were not responsive. No relationship of responsiveness to intravenous immunoglobulin with regard to age, gender or epilepsy syndrome was detected.

Conclusion & Significance: Our study suggests that intravenous immunoglobulin can be used in the treatment of children with drug-resistant epilepsies with potentially high efficacy and low side effects. This treatment was able to reduce multiple seizure types in a variety of epilepsy etiologies, including those of unknown cause or even inborn error of metabolism.

Biography

Alireza Rezayi has expertise in Child Neurology and he is working on rare diseases such as neurometabolic and refractory epilepsy in Tertiary Center of Child Neurology (Mofid Children Hospital and Loghman Hakim Hospital) in Tehran, Iran. He has published several articles in the field of Child Neurology and he is a Faculty of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and is interested in teaching residents of child neurology, and pediatrics and medical students. He is certified from the Iranian Child Neurology National Board in September 2011 and he has membership in several international child neurology societies like ICNA (International Child Neurology Association), AOCNA (Asian and Oceanian child Neurology Association), EPSN (European Paediatric Neurology Society) and Iranian Child Neurology Association.

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