Effectiveness and Side Effect Profile of Stimulant Medication for the Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Youth with Epilepsy

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ABSTRACT

Objectives:
This clinical case series examined the effectiveness and potential side effects associated with stimulant medication for the treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in 20 youth with epilepsy.

Methods:
Response to stimulant medication was examined through symptom reduction on the Conners–Third Edition: Parent Rating Scale, Short Form [Conner 3-P(S)], which was administered to caregivers before initiation of treatment and following dosage titration to achieve therapeutic efficacy. Stimulant medication side effects were examined with the Side Effect Rating Scale before treatment and following dosage titration. Repeated measures mixed model approach was used to compare symptom reduction and side effects between the two-time points.

Results:
Repeated measures ANOVA revealed significant ADHD symptom reduction as measured by the Conner 3-P(S). Review of patient medical records and caregiver report did not reveal seizure exacerbation. Caregivers, in fact, reported fewer side effects following treatment for ADHD compared with baseline.

Conclusion:
These results contribute to growing evidence in support of the effectiveness of stimulant medication, without seizure exacerbation or medication side effects, for the treatment of ADHD in youth with epilepsy.