Prevalence of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Children with Idiopathic Epilepsy at Assiut Children University Hospital

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Abstract

Background:
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common neurodevelopment disorder affecting approximately 5%–7% of children worldwide. Many studies have shown that there is an increased prevalence of ADHD in children with epilepsy.

Objectives:
To determine the prevalence of ADHD and its associations in children with idiopathic epilepsy in Assiut University children hospital.

Methods: A cross-sectional analytical study was conducted at Assiut University children hospital from October 2015 to October 2016. Our patients aged from 3 to 18 years with a confirmed diagnosis of epilepsy for at least 1 year were recruited into the study. Data were collected using a pre-tested interviewer-administered questionnaire. ADHD was defined using Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) diagnostic criteria. Chi-square test and multiple logistic regressions were used in the analysis.

Results:
This study included 120 children. 90 patients were males and 30 patients were female. 85 patients had generalised epileptic seizures and 35 patients had partial epileptic seizures. 35 (29%) patients had ADHD. Partial epileptic seizure type; duration of epilepsy over 2 years and uses of more than one anti-epileptic drug were significantly associated with increased risk of having ADHD. Having partial epileptic seizures and use of more than one antiepileptic agent were independent predictors for the development of ADHD in multiple logistic regression.

Conclusions:
More than 29% of epileptic children in this study had associated ADHD. Partial epileptic seizure type, duration of epilepsy over 2 years and use of more than one antiepileptic drug were significantly associated with ADHD.