Pediatric Epilepsy And Conditions That Mimic Seizures

Bassem El-Nabbout, MD
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Neurology
Board Certified in Neurology, and Headache Medicine.

Disclosure

- I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this program/presentation.
- I have no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturers of any commercial products discussed in this CME activity.
- I will discuss some investigational device and off label medications in my presentation.

Outline

- Psychogenic nonepileptic seizures (PNES) and conversion disorders
- Pediatric epilepsy syndromes
- Conditions that mimic seizures
Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures

- Shivering, biting tip of tongue, hand drop test
- Head movement side-to-side, asynchronous mvt
- Sudden motionless unresponsiveness
- Different clinical features from one convolution to the next (not stereotyped)
- Closed eyes with resistance to opening, ictal crying
- Longer than 3 minutes
- Pelvic thrusting, rolling side to side, wax and wane
- Vocalization, no incontinence, no tongue biting, may rapidly awaken and reorient.

Conversion Disorder

- Video 3

- Video 4
Hoover Test

- Contraction of synergistic muscles.

Hoover Test

- Video 5

Other Tests

- Hand-drop (weakness, unconscious).
- Sternocleidomastoid test (bilaterally innervated).
- Midline splitting.
- Splitting of vibration.
- Hearing loss.
- Teddy bear sign.
- PNES. Eyes closed during seizure, pelvic thrusting, head turning side to side, crying during the seizure, biting the tip of the tongue, long duration.

*Keep in mind that patient can have both functional and organic disorder.*
Teddy Bear Sign

- Video 6
- Video 7

Approach To Conversion Disorder

- History and Physical exam.
- Interview the patient alone, educate about conversion disorder (not faking, subconscious stress, not uncommon), ask about stressors, physical and sexual abuse.
- Interview parents alone (inconsistency of physical exam discussed).
- Patient and parents together (Give patient way out).

Malingering vs Factitious vs Hypochondriasis

- **Malingering** (patient fakes sx for external incentives “secondary gain”)
- **Factitious** (patient fakes sx for internal psychological benefit “primary gain”) Munchausen syndrome.
- **Hypochondriasis** (belief of presence of serious disease, insidious onset, patient distressed with illness, rejects reassurance, seeks second opinions).
Case Presentation

- 11-month-old infant presented with recurrent episodes of head drop mainly after waking up from a nap occurring in clusters.

Diagnosis?

- Benign infantile myoclonus
- Complex partial seizure
- Rolandic seizure
- Atonic seizure
- Infantile spasm
Infantile Spasm
- Incidence 25 in 100,000 live births.
- Flexor/extensor spasm, head drop
- R/O tuberous sclerosis
- Hypsarrhythmia
- ACTH, Steroids, Vigabatrin
- Bad prognosis (West syndrome, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome).

Neurocutaneous Syndromes

Hypsarrhythmia
**Case Presentation**

- 5-year-old child with nocturnal seizures described as numbness on one side of the mouth, followed by ipsilateral twitching of the face, mouth, arm and drooling lasting 1-2 minutes.

**Video 09**

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**Benign Rolandoic Epilepsy**

- Benign childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes
- 3-13 years of age
- Seizures stop spontaneously by age 14.
- Ask parents whether the child’s mouth was “twisted”, gurgling sound.
- Does not require treatment
Case Presentation
- Seizure vs Epilepsy
- Tonic, Clonic, Myoclonic, Atonic
- Complex vs Simple
- Focal vs Generalized

Video 10
Case Presentation

- 9 yo female with episodes of staring in the classroom.
- Daydreaming, Absence epilepsy, Complex partial seizures.

Absence Epilepsy

- Video 11

Absence Epilepsy

- 5-8 years
- Last 5-10 seconds, 50x/day, no aura, no postictal state.
- Occasional abnormal eye movements, automatism, incontinence.
- Hyperventilation, 3 HZ
- Ethosuximide, Valproic Acid, Lamotrigine
Absence Seizure

Case Presentation

- 16-year-old female presenting with new onset GTC seizure after spending the night clubbing.

Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy

- 10% of all cases of epilepsy
- Myoclonic jerks in the morning
- Precipitated by sleep deprivation and alcohol
- Prognosis (Good and bad news)
- Treatment (Keppra, Valproic acid).
Simple vs Complex Febrile Seizure
- Age = 3 months to 6 years
- Duration (< 5min-10min-15min)
- Description (Generalized, focal/Todd’s paralysis).
- Within 24-hour period (1, clusters of 2 or more).

Febrile Seizure
- Prevalence 2-4% (peak 18 months)
- Rectal temperature >38 C
- Risk factors for later epilepsy (Developmental delay, family history of non-febrile seizures, complex febrile seizure).

Febrile Seizure
- Long-lasting febrile convulsive seizures is a pediatric emergency.
- Provide family with rectal Diazepam
- Little evidence that antipyretics reduce risk of recurrent febrile seizures
- Little evidence for oral diazepam/Phenobarbital
- LP should be strongly considered in infants less than 12 months of age
Mesial Temporal Sclerosis

Management

- CBC, BMP
- CT brain
- MRI brain
- EEG
- LP <6M, >12M
- Admit to PICU
- Admit to hospital

Conditions That Mimic Seizures

- Breath holding spells
- Shuddering attacks
- Sandifer syndrome
- Self-stimulatory behavior
- PNES. Eyes closed during seizure, pelvic thrusting, head turning side to side, crying during the seizure, biting the tip of the tongue, long duration.
- Tics, stereotypies
Breath Holding Spells

- Any age until 8 years of age.
- Cyanotic vs Pallid breath holding.
- “Silent scream”, tonic/clonic movements
- ALTE (Without provocation).
- EKG (R/O prolonged QT), CBC, Ferritin.
- Ferrous sulfate 5mg/kg/day, Piracetam, Levetiracetam.

Self-stimulatory behavior

- Infantile gratification phenomenon
- Posturing of lower extremities with pressure on pelvic area associated with grunting, diaphoresis, facial flushing, possible staring.
- Stop with distraction.

Reflex Epilepsy

- One-year-old male presenting with abnormal movements that occur when his mother taps on his head.
- Abnormal movements are myoclonic lasting few seconds only with no apparent change in level of consciousness.
Video
- Video 18
- Video 19

Reflex Epilepsy EEG

Reflex Epilepsy
- Reflex myoclonic epilepsy of infancy
- Hot water Epilepsy (Clobazam=ONFI)
- Diaper change seizure.
- Photosensitive epilepsy
- Calculus /Mah-Jong/Sudoku seizures.
Audiogenic Epilepsy

To the Editor:

A number of factors, such as visually, taste
sensations, have been reported in a long list of
epileptic focus the seizures are triggered by.
A case of photovisual epilepsy induced by a video
game has been reported in the Journal. It is
wished to emphasize a problem in applying
treatment procedures under the supervision
of a projects television screens.

Fundus Exam