

Results: In selected illustrative cases we present imaging findings characteristic for different pathological white matter processes.

Conclusion: MRI is a very sensitive but unfortunately relatively unspecific method for evaluation of WML. As mentioned earlier, differential diagnosis of WML is a long list. Due to that the diagnosis of a specific pathological process characterised by one or more lesions in the white matter has to be made by combining clinical aspect and radiological assessment.

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Surveillance of Croatian pregnant women with epilepsy and effects of antiepileptic drugs exposure in their offspring

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Introduction: The aim was to survey pregnancies exposed to AED and their offspring in order to assess teratogenic/neurodevelopmental effect of newer generation AEDs.

Methods: This is prospective surveillance of pregnancies in women with epilepsy (May 2003–May 2008). Pregnancy planning data, folic acid (FA) supplementation, seizure frequency and AED therapy were obtained.

Results: From 47 pregnancies: 83% (39/47) exposed to monotherapy: 23 to lamotrigine (LTG): 13 live-births (LB), 2 premature deliveries, 2 spontaneous abortions (SA), 1 artificial abortion, 1 intrauterine death and 4 ongoing pregnancies (OP). Seven LB were exposed to carbamazepine (CBZ), 1 LB was under phenytoin (PHT) and 1 under phenobarbiton (PB) with EPH gestosis/periparturient asphyxia. One preterm LB (ASD), severe psychomotor delay and epilepsy) was exposed to gabapentine (GBP), 3 LB and 1 OP were under valproic acid (VP). One LB and 1 SA were under phenobarbiton (PB). Six pregnancies were exposed to polytherapy: topiramate (TPM)/VP (1 LB, 1 SA, 1 OP) CBZ/PB (1 stillbirth); TPM/CBZ/PHT (1 LB) with intrauterine growth retardation and dysmorphism); VP/clonazepam (CZP) (1 OP). Two women without AED therapy delivered healthy LB. From 35% planned pregnancies, 20% took FA properly. About 25.5% of these women had their second or third pregnancy during our survey and their pregnancy planning was above 50% mainly due to preconceptional counseling.

Conclusion: Pregnancies under polytherapy resulted in larger proportion of complications. Besides 4 SA, 2 still-births, 2 premature deliveries, we have noted 1 possible intrauterine AED effect and 1 premature LB with ASD, psychomotor delay and epilepsy. Adequate preconceptional counseling in women with epilepsy resulted in higher pregnancy planning and FA intake. Follow up of LB till school age is needed.

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Public knowledge and predictors for negative attitudes toward patients with epilepsy in Croatia

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Rationale: We assessed public knowledge of and attitudes toward people with epilepsy in the Croatian population. We also aimed to identify independent predictors of negative attitudes.

Methods: We performed a survey consisting of a representative sample of 1500 adults. The population tested were 18 years or older, living in a private households. Croatia is a country of 5.5 million inhabitants with a socioeconomic and ethnic profile similar to neighboring Middle European countries. Within the sample, the respondents were selected according to the random route method that guaranteed a representative sample concerning households. The survey consisted of questions intended to determine the respondents' socioeconomic background and education, acquaintance with persons with epilepsy and knowledge and attitudes towards them. Urban and rural population was tested living in the places of less than 2,000 to more than 100,000 inhabitants. This survey consisted of 14 questions, tailored to the ones used in earlier studies of public knowledge towards people with epilepsy in other countries. Logistic regression analysis was used to test for independent predictors of negative attitudes. All data were stored and analyzed in the SPSS database.

Results: We surveyed a representative sample of Croatian population aged between 18–94 years. Majority were females (55.3%), living in urban setting (61.3%) with high school or higher degree (78.6%). Majority of the respondents worked for a public or private company (37.5%), and 34% were retired.

The results show that 91% of respondents have heard about epilepsy, 57% of them know a person with epilepsy and 55% have witnessed a seizure. 48% believed that people with epilepsy are treated differently in the society. Majority of them presume that epilepsy is a mental illness (41%), 29% that people with epilepsy should have a lower quality job, 17% do not want that their son/daughter live with person with epilepsy, 17% think that people with epilepsy should not have children, and 12% that they should attend special schools. 87% of respondents without any regular education assume that people with epilepsy should have a lower quality job, however, this is still high belief in the people having a university degree (25%). Consistent independent predictors for all attitudes were a positive response to the question whether one has heard or read about epilepsy, the misconception of epilepsy as a form of mental illness and an infectious disorder. Employment and knowing someone with epilepsy were independent predictors for four out of five tested attitudes.

Conclusion: This is the first study assessing public knowledge of and attitudes toward people with epilepsy in the Croatian population. We showed that public knowledge of epilepsy is similar to other countries, and we defined predictors for negative attitudes. Future educational campaigns on epilepsy should improve attitudes toward epilepsy mainly by targeting misconceptions about epilepsy and by offering opportunities for personal acquaintance with people with epilepsy.

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Importance of early recognition of adverse drug reactions (ADR) induced by lamotrigine

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Introduction/Objectives: During the period from March 2005 to April 2008 Croatian Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices (Agency) received 10 reports of ADRs associated with lamotrigine. Three of those were severe ADRs including Stevens Johnson syndrome and hypersensitivity including multi-systemic

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