

Clinical Presentation of Epilepsy among Adult Sudanese Epileptic Patients Seen In Sheik Mohamed Kheirs Friday Epileptic Clinic-SUDAN

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Abstract

Objective: To study the pattern of clinical presentation of epilepsy among adult Sudanese epileptic patients.

Methods: 120 patients with epilepsy were included in a prospective cross-sectional study.

Setting: The study was conducted at Sheik Mohamed Kheir Friday Epileptic Clinic

Duration: May 2003– Oct 2006.

Results: Males were (54.15%) while females were (45.85%). In 80 patients (67%) no cause was identified. Cerebrovascular accident was found to be the commonest risk factor, 24 patients (20%) had a family history of epilepsy. 103 patients had generalized epilepsy while 18 patients had focal epilepsy. The prodromal symptoms and neurological signs were common among patients with partial epilepsy. 78 patients (64.8%) showed abnormal EEG. 12 patients (10%) with generalize epilepsy had abnormal CT of the brain, while 50% of those who had focal epilepsy had abnormal CT of the brain.

Conclusion: Generalized epilepsy is more common than partial epilepsy. Prodromal symptoms and neurological signs were common among patients with partial epilepsy. EEG and CT Brain play an important role in supporting the diagnosis of epilepsy.



Introduction

Epilepsy is a clinical syndrome characterized by abnormal movement with or without loss of consciousness. It can be either generalized or focal and is due to disturbance of spread of electrical discharge of cortical neurons^{1,2}. Epilepsy is either idiopathic or secondary³. It can also be classified according to the site of spread of electrical activity e.g. occipital, frontal and temporal, but the most important classification depend on the spread of electrical activity e.g. generalized or focal epilepsy with their different types⁴.

Objective

The objective is to study the presentation pattern of epilepsy among adult Sudanese epileptic patients.

Inclusion criteria: Adult Sudanese patients aged 18 years or older attending the clinic were enrolled in the study All patients gave consent to participate in the study.

Methodology

This is a prospective cross sectional study conducted on Friday clinic as a part of the activities of Sheikh Mohammed Khier's mosque in Omdruman, Sudan. In six weeks time 120 patients were seen by one house officer, two medical registrars and two neurologists.

Detailed history and proper clinical examination were done. The investigations included urine & stool urinalysis, complete blood count, serum urea, liver function test, random blood glucose, calcium, magnesium, EEG and CT brain. EEG analysis was done by a neurophysiologist, CT brain was reported by two nueroradiologists. These patients were followed up for three years.

Results

Out of 120 patients 65 (54.15%) were males. 72 patients were from Khartoum and most of them where students, house wife's and unemployed persons

Table 1: Age distribution

| Age group | Number of patients n=120 |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 18-20 | 40 |
| 21-30 | 26 |
| 31-40 | 20 |
| 41-50 | 9 |
| 51-60 | 8 |
| 61-70 | 10 |
| 71-80 | 7 |

Twenty four (20%) patients had a family history of Epilepsy. Generalized and focal epilepsy were seen in 103(85.8%) and 17(14.2%) patients respectively. 17 patients had secondary generalized epilepsy, 12 (10%) had complex partial seizure and 5(4.2%) patients had simple partial seizure.

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