You may know:
Depression in Patients with Epilepsy is frequent and associated with:
- Increased morbidity
- Increased suicidality
- Seizure frequency

Effect of epilepsy treatments on depression
Epilepsy treatments that may have...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Negative effects on depression</th>
<th>Positive effects on depression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbiturates</td>
<td>Lamotrigine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felbamate</td>
<td>Vagus Nerve Stimulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiagabine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topiramate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigabatrin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zonisamide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregabalin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Brain Stimulation*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Epidemiology of depression in PwE
Life Time Prevalence for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

- 31.6% in pts with refractory focal epilepsy
- 17.4% in pts with epilepsy

Screening increases diagnosis: 10-fold more likely to diagnose depression

Depressive Symptoms:
- 30% pts with controlled epilepsy
- 60% pts with drug-resistant epilepsy
- 50-60% of PwE & MDD in epilepsy specialists clinics do not get treated for MDD

Effect of epilepsy treatments on depression
In a cohort of 116 pwE at a epilepsy specialized center BDI scores increased from 11.5 to 12.5 (p <0.05) during the pandemic.

Neurological Disorders Depression Inventory for Epilepsy (NDDI-E): Developed for PwE
It takes less than two minutes to screen for MDD in PwE

Learn More

Before COVID-19 (n=116) During COVID-19 (n=116)
Total Beck Depression Scale values
11.5±9.4 p=0.048
12.5±11.3

No depression
59(50.9) p=0.032
57(49.1)

Mild depression
37(31.9)
32(27.6)

Moderate depression
13(11.2)
14(12.1)

Severe depression
7(6)
13(11.2)

Conclusion:
There is a high prevalence of depression and depressive symptoms in patients with epilepsy (PWE) and depression in PWE is associated with increased morbidity, suicidality and seizure frequency.

Antiepileptic therapies can have positive or negative effects on depression, and therefore should be chosen with this impact on depression in mind in patients with epilepsy to avoid aggravation of depressive symptoms and the detrimental consequences thereof.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated depression and anxiety in PwE.

4 Key Factors to Consider
- Screen for depression: taking less than 2 minutes and can be conducted by any healthcare provider.

You CAN help:
Screening for depression takes less than 2 minutes and can be conducted by any healthcare provider.

You may know:
Depression in Patients with Epilepsy

Learn More

View our references here

Barbiturates
Felbamate
Tiagabine
Topiramate
Vigabatrin
Zonisamide
Pregabalin
Deep Brain Stimulation

Depressive Symptoms:
Always or Often Sometimes Rarely Never
1 Everything is a struggle 4 3 2 1
2 Nothing I do is right 4 3 2 1
3 Feel guilty 4 3 2 1
4 I'd be better of dead 4 3 2 1
5 Frustrated 4 3 2 1
6 Difficulty finding pleasure 4 3 2 1

Antiepileptic therapies can have positive or negative effects on depression, and therefore should be chosen with this impact on depression in mind in patients with epilepsy to avoid aggravation of depressive symptoms and the detrimental consequences thereof.

Learn More

Screening increases diagnosis: 10-fold more likely to diagnose depression

Download form now

View our references here