

Evaluation of Knowledge of Epileptic Patients about their Disorder

abstract

Background & purposes: *Patients' knowledge of their disorder is an essential component of their care. Studies about this issue are scanty. We report the first study in Iranian epileptic patients from the Epilepsy clinic.*

Methods: *Seven hundred and fifty patients above 15 yr. old were selected. EPKQ (Epilepsy patients knowledge Questionnaire) of ohio university is used for gathering of information. This questionair included demographic data-topics related seizure definition-type and dose of drugs-legal issues of driving and employment. Then informations were analyzed statistically with EP16 softwere.*

Results: *Of 750 patients (280 female, 470 male) the average age and number with epilepsy were 32 ± 10 and 12 ± 10 yr. respectively. Neither age nor number of years with epilepsy correlated with scores. Years of education & sexuality (male' scores were higher) affected scores significantly. Twenty percent believed that epilepsy is a mental disorder. Thirty-eight percent knew which factors increases seizures. The lowest scores pertained to antiepileptic drug side effects and discontinue of them (only 5% knew enough). Overall patients' knowledge level was low.*

Conclusion: *Patients with epilepsy are not knowledgeable about their disease. This causes increase of injuries during attacks, problems of tretment and finally affects their quality of lives. There is a need for educational intervention in this population. Particularly about antiepileptic drugs side effects (AED), proper time of AED discontinuation and legal issues of epilepsy.*

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