

Report of one day follow up epilepsy school for assessment of the impact of the two day epilepsy school held for general practitioners(medical officers) in Enugu state Nigeria

This workshop held on the 29th of June 2023 at the old conference hall of the National Orthopaedic Hospital Enugu Nigeria. The workshop was attended by 29 participants. The two day workshop was facilitated by Prof Anne E. Aronu , professor of Paediatrics and child health and consultant Paediatric neurologist, Dr Ndubuisi Onyemaechi, Senior Lecturer/Consultant Paediatric Neurologist and Dr Adaobi Bisi-Onyemaechi, also a Senior Lecturer/Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, all of the Paediatric Neurology Firm, Department of Paediatrics, University of Nigeria. Four lectures were given during the workshop, two assessments and an workshop evaluation were conducted during the workshop. The following four lectures were given during the workshop;

1. **Critical skills required for the management of status epilepticus**- This was taken by Dr N Uwaezuoke. The objective of this lecture was to improve the capacity of the participants to manage epileptic emergencies(more commonly status epilepticus) that present to them in their various facilities. Highlights include proper positioning when a child is convulsing, oxygen saturation monitoring and intubation when necessary, administration of rectal and parenteral emergency medications etc.
2. **Review of anti-epileptic medications** – This was taken by Prof A Aronu. This lecture intended to refresh the minds of the participants on right choice of medication, dosing, formulations, route of administration, side effects and contra indications- depending on the type of epilepsy they encounter.
3. **Non pharmacologic treatment of epilepsy**- This lecture was delivered was by Dr A. Bisi-Onyemaechi . The lecture intended to teach the workshop participants the various options that are available for the treatment of epilepsy even though it may not be available to them. The residents who are in training were particularly excited about this lecture.
4. **Myths about epilepsy**- This was also given by Dr Bisi-Onyemaechi. The lecture was started with the participants volunteering the epilepsy myths they have encountered in their own practice. The objective was to debunk the myths primarily among the doctors and encourage them to debunk the myths in their various communities by equipping them with the facts.

Assessments –Two assessments were done during the workshop:

Diagnostic Assessment/Pretest- This was done using 10 best-of five questions for all the participants. Results showed that the first time participants had an average score of 78% while the 2nd time participants had an average score of 71% which was an improvement on their previous performance of 48%. The presence of about 5 residents and a paediatrician among the first timers may explain the higher scores on the pre-test of the first timers.

Formative assessment- This was done in groups during the breakout session. The class was divided into 2 groups and each group was given a clinical case scenario with 5 questions from the clinical case to answer. Each group was moderated by at least one faculty member. This provided an interactive forum for the group participants to discuss the cases, management plans, expected challenges in their

practicing institutions and how the challenges may be overcome. At the end the rapporteur for each group (a general practitioner) presented the case to the general audience and their management decisions critiqued by the other group.

Feedbacks from course participants

1. The participants noted again that most of the medications mentioned in the lectures were not available to them and encouraged the facilitators to look for collaborations to make these medications available. This would help improve treatment outcomes.
2. The participants also requested us to have a session with caregivers of children with epilepsy and also community health workers in order to continue to debunk the myths as it is a prevalent problem in the local communities. These caregivers have more access to the health workers who tend to believe and reinforce these myths.
3. The residents among the participants requested for a basic EEG training for them as it is not part of their training curriculum which limits their diagnostic and treatment capacity.

Post workshop actions

The new workshop participants were added to the WhatsApp group and the workshop lectures posted in the group for further learning, clarification and referral pathways.

Limitation of the workshop

Majority of the workshop participants were first time attendees and subsequent interrogation of the previous attendees who did not come revealed an assumption that they already have access to us in the event of any issues they encounter and decided to stay home for the Eid holiday announced by the Nigerian government.

Observation

The evaluation tool sent by ILAE did not allow the participants to submit when they included “General Practitioners/Medical Officers” in the ‘others’ option of question 7. This was noticed at the end of the workshop and could not be sent back for correction. The participants had to choose other options from the list in order to be able to submit the evaluation tool.

Conclusion

The course participants and the facilitators are sincerely grateful once again to International League against Epilepsy (ILAE) for this opportunity given them to increase the capacity of medical officers, doctors and medical students in the local communities in our state to manage epilepsy and seizures in children

Thank you again ILAE.













