

Course Announcement

EEG SCORE Course – 1st edition 2012/2013

Course content

EEG signal has a high complexity, and the interpretation of the clinically relevant features is achieved by visual analysis of the recordings. The findings are currently reported in free text format. However, this leads to high inter-observer variability and lack of quality-control. In an attempt to increase the quality of EEG interpretation and reporting, a group of European clinical neurophysiologists and epileptologists developed a software to help electroencephalographers in analysing / interpreting and reporting the clinically relevant findings. This initiative was endorsed by the European Chapter of the IFCN and the Commission on European Affairs of the ILAE, who also supported the development of this VIREPA course.

The main elements of SCORE are: personal data of the patient, referral data, recording conditions, background activity, sleep and drowsiness, non-ictal findings, “episodes” (ictal findings), normal variants and patterns, artefacts, polygraphic channels, interpretation and diagnostic significance. Specific aspects of the neonatal EEGs are scored: alertness, temporal organisation and spatial organisation.

Learning objectives

The participants will gain access to the software and will be guided through the steps of scoring (Interpreting and reporting) EEG recordings.

Course units

Introduction to the VIREPA platform; Overview of the SCORE software (including detailed presentation of: patient data, recording condition and referral data); Background activity, Sleep, Non-ictal findings; Ictal findings (“episodes”); Physiologic patterns, normal variants and polygraphic channels; Neonatal EEG; Diagnostic significance.

Course format:

The course itself is divided into 7 units, beginning with a one week introduction to the VIREPA e-learning platform, followed by 6 learning units of two weeks each. Additional educational material (textbooks and references) required for this course is available for downloading from the course’s server repositories. To earn credits in each learning unit, tasks will be successfully completed within an active online communication process among all participants, guided by the experts in the discussion fora on the e-learning platform.

These tasks help to deepen the theoretically gained knowledge from the learning material and enable the participant to transfer this knowledge to his/her daily clinical practice. The participants are expected to spend about 8 hours (~4 hours/week) on individual study of the learning material, for reading/submitted contributions to the course's virtual discussion forum and for the completion of the learning unit tasks.

All tutors are currently practicing in their respective speciality field, moderating the distance courses in addition to their regular duties. This gives participants the unique opportunity to draw upon their expertise and practical experience even beyond the statutory requirements of the course.

Target group & entry criteria

- Neurologists and clinical neurophysiologists who already have a minimum of 12 months training in EEG
- Alumni of the VIREPA EEG courses will have a high priority

Course fee: 600 Euro. A restricted number of bursaries will be available. For participants living in countries with “low” and “lower middle” income, self payment for approved bursaries will be 150 Euro. (See categories according to the statistics of the World Bank: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/CLASS.XLS>)

Number of participants: up to 30

Course Director: Dr. Sándor Beniczky

For questions, contact Priscilla Shisler (pshisler@ilae.org) at the ILAE Headquarter Office.