



EEG in the diagnosis and management of epilepsy

Pilot project

Blended Learning Course:

Presence phase at 7th European Congress on Epileptology in Helsinki 2006
followed by ~6 months of distance learning

Course description

The course will cover the basic elements of the practice of EEG in its application to the diagnostic work up and the management of persons with suspected or already established epilepsy, adults and children.

It will be practice oriented and aimed at the general neurologist / paediatric neurologist / paediatrician dealing with - but not exclusively involved in - epilepsy care.

Subject material will emphasize the basic role of the (standard) EEG in the diagnosis and management of epilepsy, common misconceptions (positive and negative) and potential pitfalls. Attention will be given to practical aspects, including the set-up of an EEG lab, minimal standards, electrodes, montages, provocation methods and the optimisation of EEG requests and reports, specifically in the context of epilepsy.

Clinical aspects will include definitions of spike, spike and wave, sharp wave, etc., examples of various types of epileptiform activity, sensitivity, specificity and predictive value of specific EEG patterns for diagnosis of epilepsy or specific epilepsy syndromes, the recognition of non epileptic sharp phenomena, benign variants & artefacts and the possible diagnostic significance of non specific EEG phenomena. Maturational aspects will be dealt with as will be the diagnostic significance of spontaneous or induced sleep.

The course will address the different kind of EEG studies, extending from standard awake recordings to extensive long term EEG and video monitoring studies, with their specific requirements and indications but, since this is a first basic course, intended to be relevant for day to day practice in average clinical circumstances, the emphasis will be on standard EEG, including sleep and the regular provocation methods in adults and children.

Some basic knowledge of EEG, both theoretical and practical, is a prerequisite since technique of EEG recording and presentation and basic underlying neurophysiology will only be dealt with insofar as relevant for epilepsy.

The course will start off with four early morning teaching sessions during the 7th European Congress on Epilepsy, July 2-6 2006 in Helsinki, focussing on general aspects, some technical aspects, specific aspects of EEG studies in children of different age groups and on the practical aspects of participation in the course, using the e-learning platform of the Virtual Epilepsy Academy.

Learning goals

The course, on completion, will enable the participants to improve the quality of the diagnostic approach in adults and children with epilepsy or other suspected paroxysmal disorders in the EEG lab of their clinics. It will help them to decide on the specific type of study, indicated for specific clinical problems. It will improve their competence and confidence in the recognition and differentiation of epileptic and other phenomena in the adult and paediatric awake and sleep EEG and their understanding of the clinical significance of these phenomena for the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of epilepsy and epilepsy syndromes.

Entry criteria:

- Minimum of 4 months of EEG training;
- 3 years of training in neurology, neuropsychiatry, clinical neurophysiology, psychiatry or neurosurgery or combinations of these;
- Mandatory participation in the presence phase at the 7th European Congress on Epileptology (4 morning sessions). (Participants must be registered for the Congress.)

Certification: Successful participation in this course is awarded 65 CPs (equivalent of 1 month) for the core curriculum “Epileptological EEG” for the European Certification in Epileptology for Medical Doctors. For successful participation, participants have to attend all of the 4 morning sessions (presence phase) and complete the tasks during the distance learning phase, including a series of general questions and diagnostic tasks which will be presented at the end of the course.

During the tutorised distance learning phase, participants are expected to spend about 4 hours per week for learning.

Applications sent to the EUREPA Secretariat should contain

- a signed confirmation of the neurology department on the EEG training
- a signed confirmation of the neurology department on the neurological or comparable training
- CV
- List of publications

Duration: The course will start with 4 morning sessions at the 7th European Congress on Epileptology in Helsinki (Sunday, July 2nd; Monday July 3rd; Wednesday, July 5th and Thursday, July 6th) followed by about 6 months of distance learning starting in September 2006.

Deadline of application is **February 15, 2006**. (For possibility of early registration for the Congress, confirmations will be distributed before March 10, 2006.)

Fees:

- **Course Fee:** Euro 450 respectively Euro 400 for EUREPA members. Some bursaries will be available.
- Participants must be registered for the 7th European Congress in Helsinki to attend the 4 morning sessions. For **Congress registration** please go to:
<http://www.epilepsyhelsinki2006.org/>

Number of participants: 25

Technical requirements for participation in the distance learning phase:

Personal Computer with CD-Rom drive

Operating system: Windows 95, 98 / 2000 / NT / XP (incl. windows media player), Apple; Linux

Internet access: Modem, ISDN (64 kbit) or DSL

Browser: Internet Explorer (recommended) 5.5 (and higher) (cookies activated); Netscape Navigation; Safari; Mozilla

Responsible for the course content: Prof. Dr. Péter Halász, Budapest; Dr. Walter van Emde Boas, Heemstede; and Dr. Perrine Plouin, Paris.

For **application** and further **information**, please contact the **EUREPA Secretariat**:

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