

COMMISSION ON EPIDEMIOLOGY

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Status Epilepticus Task Force: Shlomo Shinnar (Chair), Giancarlo Logroscino, Ingrid Scheffer, Ding Ding, Ed Dudek

Aims

1. Prevention of death in epilepsy. This topic is undertaken through a systematic review of death in epilepsy with a focus on preventable causes of death.
2. Creation of a document on guidelines for the conduct of epidemiological studies of epilepsy.
3. Two systematic reviews to describe and determine the scope of psychiatric and cognitive comorbidities in epilepsy.
4. A systematic review to determine the burden of mortality in epilepsy and the potentially preventable causes of death.
5. Description of the definition of Status Epilepticus for use in epidemiological studies.

The Commission is focused on four areas important to the burden of epilepsy: mortality in epilepsy; comorbidity in epilepsy; reliability of different epilepsy classifications; and development of an epidemiological definition of Status Epilepticus. These issues overlap with one another and together describe a large proportion of the burden of epilepsy. Additionally, the Commission aims to provide a document for the international community that provides guidelines for the conduct of epidemiological studies in epilepsy. The Commission's Task Forces include: Comorbidity Task

Force, Mortality Task Force, Reliability Task Force, and Definition of Status Epilepticus Task Force.

Commission Activities from July 2011 through July 2012

Meetings were held for the Commission and each of its Task Forces to organize and discuss activities that led to the accomplishments described in number 3 below. Additional meetings were held at AES, and some teleconference and Skype calls were held to further discuss relevant issues.

Accomplishments (2009-2010)

1. Publication of manuscript on standard definitions, study designs, and instruments to improve the quality of epidemiological research on epilepsy and to facilitate comparison of the burden of epilepsy worldwide.
2. Publication of manuscript on a combined analysis of risk factors for SUDEP.
3. Review of abstracts on mortality in epilepsy, selection of full papers for systematic review of mortality in epilepsy, creation of data abstraction form, set up of web-based data abstraction form with linking excel file, download and distribution of PDFs for review, and beginning of the data abstraction.
4. Review of abstracts on psychiatric and cognitive comorbidity in epilepsy, creation of questions for systematic review, literature search for articles, review of abstracts, selection of papers needing full review, creation of data abstraction form, creation of web-based data abstraction form with excel file link, downloading and distribution of PDFs.
5. For work on the reliability of different epilepsy classifications, 71 case reports were collected on pediatric and adult epilepsy. They were reformatted to present each case in three ways: phenomenology only; phenomenology plus neurological examination; phenomenology, neurological examination and tests (EEG, MRI, genetics). These were reviewed by epileptologists who entered data on three classification systems.
6. The Commission's Task Force on Definition of Status Epilepticus merged with the Commission on Classification's parallel Task Force and worked together on a joint document.
7. Proposed a SUDEP symposium which was accepted for the Montreal meeting.

Recommendations for Future Work

Related to the current work:

1. Completion of the three systematic reviews.
2. Completion of the manuscript on reliability of seizure classifications. Also completion of a second reliability study done in Latin America.
3. Providing any needed assistance to the Latin American PAHO efforts.

Dale Hesdorffer
Co-Chair