

A Report from the Commission on Pediatrics

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The Pediatrics Commission focuses on the many issues that are involved in treating children with epilepsy and their families. In the past four years, we have addressed six significant issues, which include the creation of guidelines for infants with epilepsy, transitioning adolescents with epilepsy to adult practitioners, developing a better interaction between epilepsy and autism specialists and developing age specific guidelines for children facing epilepsy surgery.

Jo Wilmschurst led the Task Force to create guidelines for the evaluation of infants with epilepsy that could be adapted for both developing and developed countries. A first draft of a manuscript aimed at creating evidence guidelines has been written. The final version should be available by the end of the year. However, the question of guidelines for first line treatment is pending, as no data exists in the literature. It was therefore decided to undertake a survey that will be sent to child neurologists, addressing the question of treatment of all seizure types in infancy. This important survey may delay the final edition of the paper.

There has been a lack of materials to aid in moving adolescents with epilepsy to adult practitioners. Jaime Carriroza worked with adult epileptologist Tania Rodriguez



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from Chile to develop these much-needed aids. The starting point was a questionnaire to be completed by pediatric and adult neurologists who were attending an Epilepsy Congress in Latin America in 2010. A checklist of ten points that have to be considered to transfer a patient from a pediatric to an adult epileptologist emerged. This checklist could be implemented in a short report to be published on the ILAE website and in the "Grey Matters" in *Epilepsia*.

Many children with epilepsy also suffer with autism. However, little is known about the interaction of the two diseases and how we can better help those who suffer from both. To begin the process, the ILAE joined forces with Autism Speaks to create the Epilepsy-Autism Task Force led by Roberto Tuchman. An NIH sponsored Epilepsy-Autism workshop was held in May 2012 and many questions were addressed. A summary report of this workshop is in progress and should help for strategic planning of clinical and research services for epilepsy and autism. Awareness among the ILAE community regarding the complex relationship between autism spectrum disorders and epilepsy and the importance of identifying and treating social cognitive deficits as part of the comprehensive care of individuals with epilepsy has been increased. Projects to foster research on autism spectrum disorders and epilepsy have put in motion.

Children with intractable epilepsy facing possible surgery have a number of age specific issues that must be considered. Helen Cross led the Task Force for Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery, which has developed a review of the Diagnostic Test Utilization in Evaluation for Resective Epilepsy

(Continued on page 12)

Surgery in Children. The review has been approved as an ILAE report and has been submitted for publication in *Epilepsia* with a flow chart of an evaluation protocol for presurgical evaluation. The next objectives for the Task Force will be to propose guidelines for the evaluation of developmental outcome after surgery, propose recommendations for specific surgical techniques, and establish a severity scale for seizure evaluation.

One of the important tasks that we faced was passing the experience of one generation of pediatric epileptologists to the next. In the last four years, two important programs have emerged.

The first is the e-learning program for Neonatal and Pediatric EEG. The first edition of the e-learning course entitled, "The role of EEG in the diagnosis and management of epilepsy in neonates and children," was held from October 2011 to March 2012. Thirty-three students from 21 countries took part. Eight units were developed by teachers from various countries. The evaluation by the students was very good, as 100 percent of them would recommend the course to others. The second edition is underway, again successfully.

The second educational program is the Summer School on San Servolo Island in Venice. The theme for 2012 was

"Management of seizures and epilepsies in neonates and infants." Perrine Plouin and Federico Vigevano directed the course that was attended by 63 students from 44 countries and was led by 34 teachers. The program included classical teaching, case presentations done by both students and teachers, and Group Project Works. The course was successful and evaluation questionnaires filed by the students were very positive.

We thank our many colleagues who have been essential in the great progress that has been made in the last four years, but we are also left with the realization that after so much has been accomplished, much still remains to be
