

Is overdiagnosing of epilepsy a common trend?

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Epilepsy is a neurological disease which affects around 0.5-1.0% of the population. Approximately 10% of the population goes through at least one seizure (febrile, metabolic, toxic, withdrawal etc.), but are not diagnosed with epilepsy. Further obstacle to correct diagnosis is the vastness of different types, including nonconvulsive attacks e.g., absence seizures. Thorough medical history correlated with the type of seizures present, supported by diagnostic research (including electroencephalography), plays a crucial role in proper diagnosis. In this study, we present only selected clinical cases of patients hospitalized in our department, who were earlier diagnosed with epilepsy which we could not confirm. In the majority of these cases, we diagnosed migraine with visual aura. In one case a patient was formerly diagnosed with complex partial seizures secondarily generalized seizures. The second case was previously diagnosed with absence seizures. In our opinion, clinical signs in both patients suggested psychogenic seizures. Conclusion: Even though this is not a population study but a presentation of selected cases, we have come to realize that overdiagnosing of epilepsy is an existing trend. There seems to be a necessity for more rigorous use of current guidelines or even a creation of new, more detailed ones, to enable correct diagnosis of epilepsy.