

DO PATIENTS BENEFIT FROM A 50-70% SEIZURE REDUCTION – NO

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There are two categories of patients where the obtainment of seizure freedom may imply different advantages. However, seizure freedom is important for all patients with epilepsy irrespective of seizure type or syndrome or comorbidity. Even one or two seizures a year will have serious social and physical consequences not only for the patient but for the surroundings especially family members and caregivers.

For many patients without mental handicaps and living otherwise normal lives, employment options, driving, sports and other social activities are all influenced by seizures and will inevitably bring with it the feeling of illness intrusiveness. With a chronic condition such as epilepsy with ongoing seizures, lifestyles are disturbed and greatly constricted.

In fact several studies have shown that seizure freedom improves quality of life and may even reduce comorbid depression and improve self esteem.

For people with epilepsy who require caregivers, not having seizures improves social freedom of movement and activities for such patients. Having one less chronic serious problem is a great relief and freedom for the patient and caregivers alike.

It is self-evident that seizure freedom has to be the goal of antiepileptic drug and other antiepileptic treatment therapies. Marginal decreases, even 75% , are NOT related to a decrease in unemployment, SUDEP and other types of mortality and injuries. Just one seizure is enough , if it occurs in the wrong place at the wrong time, to be disastrous.