

Influence of antiepileptic drugs on the quality of life of patients with epilepsy - preliminary results

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Introduction: Epilepsy patients may have a lower quality of life (QOL). Many factors influence QOL, including the severity of the disease itself, the stigma associated with epilepsy diagnosis, fear of recurrent seizures, and the presence of cognitive or psychiatric problems. Furthermore, various biological, cultural, social factors and religious beliefs may also have an impact on the QOL. **Materials and Methods:** A study was conducted at the Referral Centre of the Ministry of Health for Epilepsy for the purpose of assessing the influence of antiepileptic drugs (AED) treatment on the QOL of our patients with epilepsy. There were 108 patients involved, 68 females (63%) and 40 males (37%), mean age 39.54 ± 15.919 (range 18-80 years). A quality assessment questionnaire "Quality of Life in Epilepsy - QOLIE-31" was used, priory validated for the Croatian language. **Results:** The QOLIE-31 questionnaire mid-response was 61.95 ± 16.59 . No significant correlation was found between gender and age and the QOLIE-31 questionnaire. Statistical analysis with T-test did not find any significant difference ($p = 0.708$) in the QOL between male and female patients given the diagnosis of epilepsy. There was a significant difference in the QOLIE-31 questionnaire between patients who take modern AEDs compared to those who take both old and modern AEDs ($p = 0.001$), meaning that they have significantly lower QOL which applies both to men and women. Comparison of patients who are being treated with only one group of AEDs has found a slightly better QOL in women taking older and in men taking modern AEDs. **Conclusion:** Preliminary results of our study indicate that there is a correlation between AEDs and QOL in patients with epilepsy. Additional studies are required which can assist clinicians in approaching patients with epilepsy and in selecting appropriate AEDs' therapies that would significantly improve patients' QOL.