Case Studies in Epilepsy

Common and Uncommon Presentations
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Preface

Clinical case studies have long been recognized as a useful adjunct to problem-based learning and continuing professional development. They emphasize the need for clinical reasoning, integrative thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and self-directed learning – all desirable generic skills for health care professionals. Epilepsy is amongst the most frequently encountered of neurological disorders. There are important emerging clinical management issues (e.g., first seizure, therapy-resistant seizures, ICU, pregnancy), but also differential diagnosis of non-epileptic seizures (syncope, pseudo-seizure, paroxysmal dystonic syndromes, sleep disorders, psychosis, inborn errors of metabolism, etc.). This selection of epilepsy case studies will inform and challenge clinicians at all stages in their careers. Including both common and uncommon cases, Case Studies in Epilepsy reinforces the diagnostic skills and treatment decision-making processes necessary to treat epilepsy and other seizures confidently. Written by leading experts, the cases and discussions work through differential diagnoses, treatments, and social consequences in pediatric and adult patients.

The editors collected real-life experiences from epileptologists of different countries. For this purpose, cases were selected to illustrate common and more rare conditions of patients.

The collection of these cases will add practical experiences to more systematic and theoretical-based textbooks of epilepsies providing a systematic overview. Easy and difficult problems are discussed with regard to the needs of the individual case for a wide range of potential readers in neurology and neuropediatrics.

General and special remarks guide the reader through the special requirements of the case and refer to systematic informations by recommended publications.

I wish to express our gratitude to the co-editors and all the contributors taking the additional burden of writing. I also want to express my thanks to Mrs. Saint-Löt for her active assistance from the beginning.