EVIDENCE-BASED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY

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Summary

Introduction. The research on the psycho-social situation of epileptic patients as well as day-to-day clinical observations draw attention to many problems and inconveniences with which this group must struggle. Most of the available data refer to patients with pharmacologically intractable epilepsy. The findings on patients whose seizures are well controlled seem to contradict these realities.

Objective. To compare the research on quality of life in epileptic patients with drug-resistant epilepsy and in patients with well controlled seizures.

Discussion. Most of the empirical evidence on epileptic patients comes from groups with drug-resistant epilepsy who are frequently hospitalised in specialist hospitals and epilepsy treatment centres. These individuals suffer many hardships and problems due to the course of their illness. The research findings based on these groups are often viewed as representative for the entire population of epileptic patients. Meanwhile it must be stressed that not all patients with intractable epilepsy, in whom pharmacotherapy does not lead to favourable outcomes in the form of reduction of seizure frequency, have serious clinical and psycho-social problems.

Key words: Epileptology – Epilepsy – Quality of life – Intractable epilepsy