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Poster Presentation

Epilepsy and Road Accidents

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Abstract

Epilepsy is one of the most prevalent serious neurologic conditions, affect 1 % of the population worldwide. People with epilepsy may feel its safe to drive when their seizures seem to be under control, but patients with epilepsy were seven times more likely to have a driving accident leading to emergency room care than those without epilepsy. People with seizures had 2.3 times the rate of fatal driver crashes as people with cardiovascular disease or high blood pressure and 4.6 times the rate for patients with diabetes. From results of a survey of 72 epileptic car drivers who had a mean driving history of 8.6 years, 18 (25%) had experienced one or more automobile accidents ascribed to a seizure while driving, with the total number of accidents of the surveyed group amounting to 35. All the drivers were known to have partial epilepsy, 13 of them having temporal lobe epilepsy. Most accidents caused damage to only the driver's car and/or mild physical injury; and fifty-four percent of the accidents were not reported to the police, and many that were reported were ascribed to driving while asleep, to careless driving or to similar behavior.

Keywords: Road Traffic Accident, Epilepsy, Seizure.

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