

PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY BRIEFS

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J. GORDON MILLICHAP, M.D., F.R.C.P., EDITOR

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SEIZURE DISORDERS

JUVENILE MYOCLONIC EPILEPSY

A case-report from the Dept of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, concerns a young adult with myoclonic epilepsy since 15 yrs of age whose attacks were precipitated while playing with the Rubik's cube, a three-dimensional colored puzzle. The EEG at rest and with photic stimulation was normal; playing the cube produced generalized 3Hz S/W accompanied by myoclonic jerks and mental blocking. Arithmetic, draughts (checkers), card games, and reading precipitated EEG epileptiform discharges but not jerks. Diazepam prevented the seizures, but made him drowsy. The patient preferred to disengage his mind from the puzzle when he felt a jerk. (Senanayake N. Epileptic seizures evoked by the Rubik's cube. J. Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 1987; 50:1553-1559).

COMMENT. Having played the Rubik's Cube and Rubik's Magic unsuccessfully myself and given up in despair, I can imagine that frustration could be a factor responsible for the patient's seizures as much as "spatial and decision making processes". The same author has described seizures evoked by card games, draughts, and a local game with sea shells called "punchi" (Epilepsia 1987; 28:356). Ch'en, Chi'in, and Ch'u were the first to describe Chess and Card epilepsy! (Chinese Med J 1965;84:470).

NEONATAL SEIZURES

Investigators in the sections of Neurophysiology and Pediatric Neurology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, have characterized and classified 415 clinical seizures recorded in 71 neonates and 11 with EEG seizure activity without clinical accompaniments. A crib-side EEG/polygraphic/video monitoring system was employed. Seizures with a close association to EEG seizure discharges were focal clonic (58 in 14 patients), myoclonic (38 in 4 patients), focal tonic (8 in 2 patients), and apneic (4 in 1 patient). Seizures with an inconsistent or no relationship to EEG seizure discharges were motor automatisms ("subtle seizures") involving mouth, eyes, limb pedaling and swimming (140 in 22

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