

were generalized tonic clonic, the EEG showed bilateral synchronous epileptiform activity, pulmonary edema was found at autopsy, and a terminal seizure was suspected but not witnessed. Low post-mortem levels of LTG indicated probable non-compliance in 2 patients. Four possible explanations for the SUDEP are proposed: 1) a fatal seizure resulting from LTG non-compliance; 2) LTG-induced ventricular cardiac tachyarrhythmia (torsade de pointes); 3) a combination of LTG effects and seizure; and 4) coincidental unrelated to LTG. (Aurlien D, Tauboll F, Gjerstad L. Lamotrigine in idiopathic epilepsy increased risk of cardiac death? *Acta Neurol Scand* March 2007;115:199-203). (Respond: Dr Dag Aurlien, Department of Neurology, Stavanger University Hospital, PO Box 8100, 4068 Stavanger, Norway).

COMMENT. LTG is a potential inhibitor of cardiac rapid delayed rectifier potassium ion current, leading to increased risk of arrhythmia and SUDEP (Danielsson BR et al. *Epilepsy Res* 2005;63:17-25). The above findings might prompt a review of cardiac function by ECG especially in young female patients with idiopathic generalized epilepsy treated with LTG.

VALPROIC ACID-INDUCED HAIR CURLING

A 47-year-old white female patient treated with valproic acid (VPA) 500mg 3xd, at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, developed curling of the hair which gradually resolved over 5 years continuous therapy, with blood levels ranging from 97 to 146 mg/L. Thinning of the hair with spots of alopecia preceded the curling effect and persisted after curling resolved. She had dyed her hair long before the curling appeared, but she had never had a permanent wave hair styling. This report of a transient perming effect of VPA is considered unique. (Wilting I, van Laarhoven JHM, de Koning-Verest IF, Egberts ACG. Valproic acid-induced hair-texture changes in a white woman. *Epilepsia* Feb 2007;48:400-401). (Reprints: Ms I Wilting, Utrecht University, Faculty of Science, Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, PO Box 80 082, 3508 TB Utrecht, The Netherlands).

COMMENT. VPA is known to cause alopecia, thinning of the hair, and hair color changes. Changes in hair texture are also reported, including curliness in 2% of 250 patients (Jeavons PM et al. *Lancet* 1977;1:359), but rarely transient.

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDERS

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

The relation of low birth weight to the risk of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder was determined in a population-based sample of 1,480 twin pairs ascertained from the Swedish twin registry in the period 1985-1986. Eighteen twin pairs at 8-9 years of age and 10 twin pairs at 13-14 years were discordant for both birth weight and ADHD criteria. The child with ADHD was smaller in 11 of 18 pairs at 8-9 years and in 9 of 10 pairs in adolescence ($P=0.011$). The lighter twin had on average 13% higher ADHD symptom score at age 8-9 years ($P=0.006$) and 12% higher ADHD score at age 13-14 years ($P=0.018$) compared with