

Epilepsy: Finding help

DR JOSANNE AQUILINA

EPILEPSY NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018



Presentation

Family Doctor

Health Centre

Hospital Accident and Emergency

Specialist Doctor



Diagnosis

Personal Account

Witness Account

Clinical examination

Clinical Diagnosis based on the above

Differential Diagnosis to distinguish from other transient neurological disturbances

- (vasovagal faints, cardiac syncope, transient ischaemic attacks, transient global amnesia, non-epileptic or functional attacks)

Specialist assessment



Investigations

Baseline blood tests

- Including electrolytes, serum calcium, blood alco

Electroencephalogram (EEG)

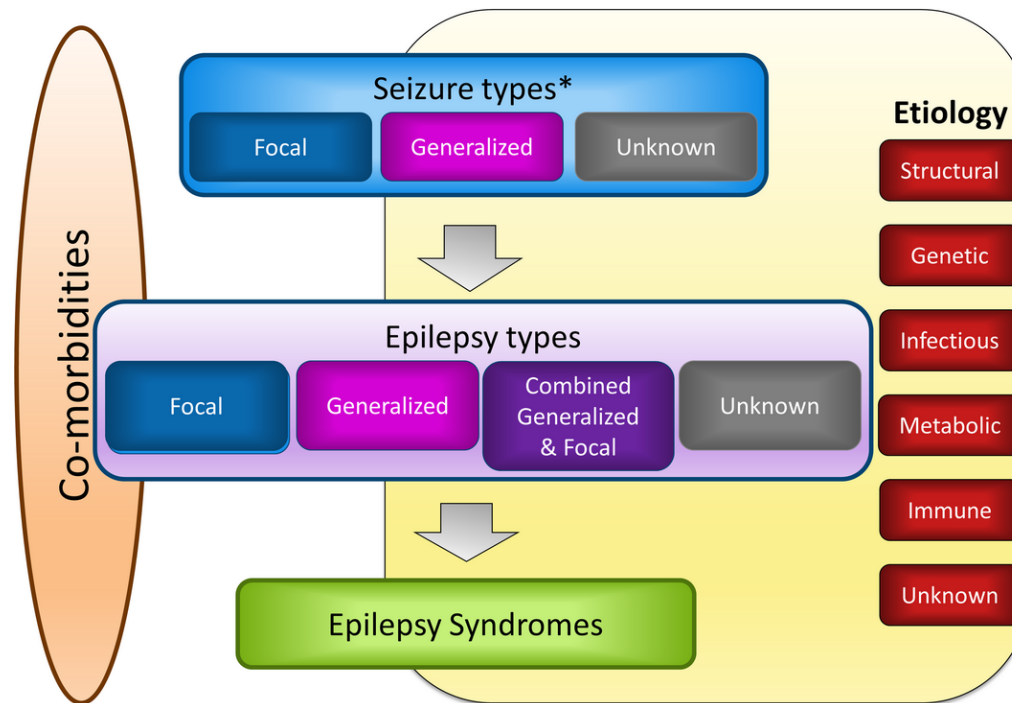
Imaging of the brain

- Computerised tomography (CT) usually done in A&E
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Other specialised tests if indicated

- Lumbar puncture, serum antibodies

Specialist assessment – ILAE 2017



Neurosciences Department in MDH

Neurologists

Clinical Neurophysiology services

Neurosurgeons

Collaboration with Neuropaediatricians

- Clinical neurophysiology services
- Transition from paediatric to adult neurology services

Multidisciplinary meetings with neurologists, neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists

Clinical Neurophysiology

New equipment with improvement and upgrade of services:

- Routine Video-EEG
- Long Term Monitoring of Video EEG in the adult neuromedical ward
- Long Term Monitoring of Video EEG in the paediatric ward *new service*
- Continuous EEG monitoring in Intensive Therapy Unit *new service*
- Continuous EEG monitoring in Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care *new service*
- Portable EEG

All connected through the hospital intranet to server and review stations

EEG Technologists

Young trainees from Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (MCAST)



Treatment

Anti-Epileptic Drugs (AED)

- Selection of AED available (older and newer drugs)
- Monotherapy or polytherapy
- Monitoring of blood levels and side effect profile

Precautions and advise

- Heights, swimming, bathing
- Driving
- Occupation

Patient support and education (Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association)

Referral to Epilepsy Center (NHNN) if surgery considered an option

Vagal Nerve Stimulation ???

Breakthrough Seizures

Usually present to A&E

Or to Family Doctor, or Specialist Doctor

Review of AED treatment and compliance in the emergency setting

Early follow up appointments in our Epilepsy Outpatient Clinics

Role of Epilepsy specialist nurse



Mater Dei Hospital



Thank you