

Epilepsy is more than seizures



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Intermittent



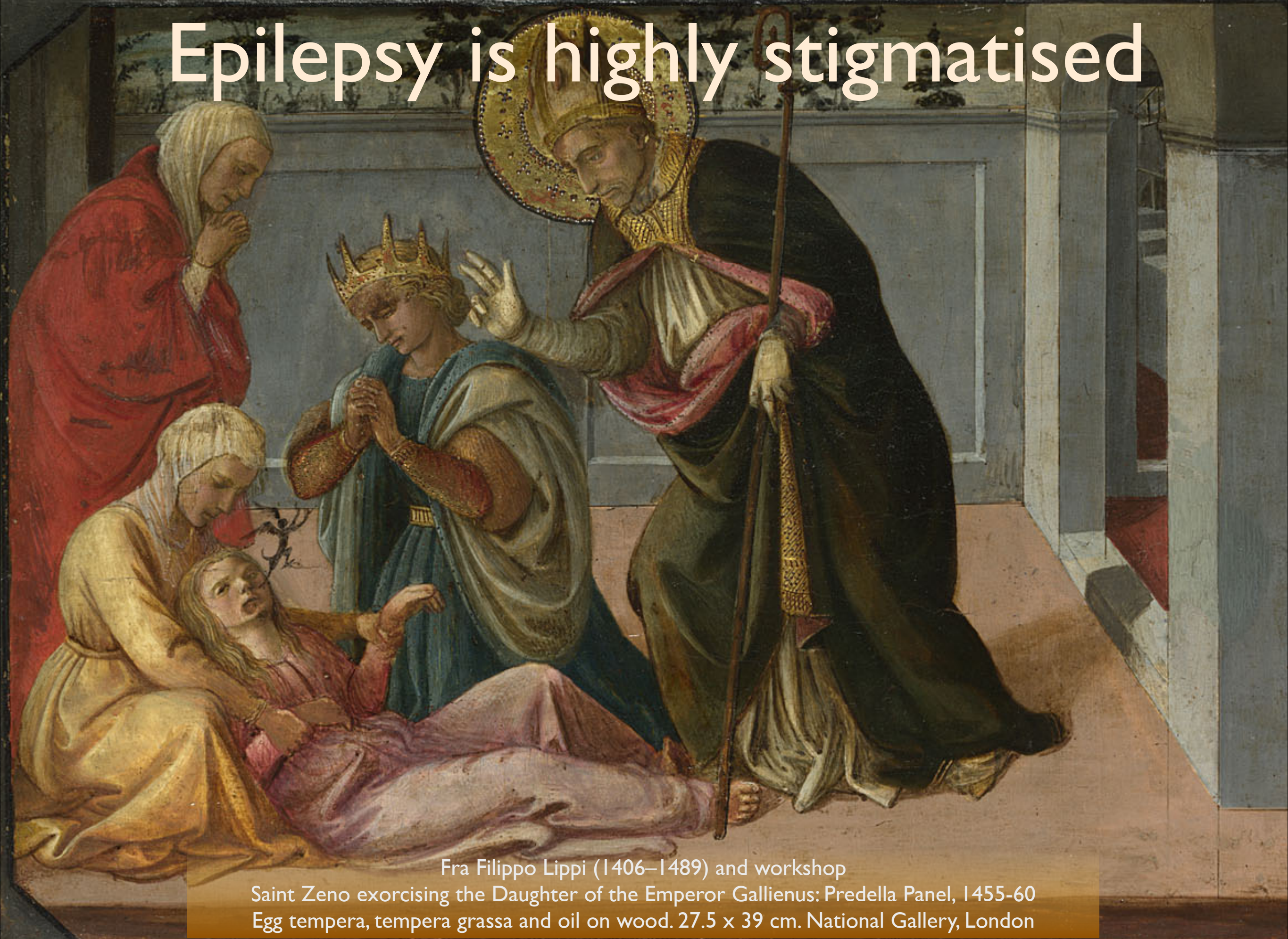
Low public profile



Epilepsy is misunderstood



Epilepsy is highly stigmatised



Fra Filippo Lippi (1406–1489) and workshop
Saint Zeno exorcising the Daughter of the Emperor Gallienus: Predella Panel, 1455-60
Egg tempera, tempera grassa and oil on wood. 27.5 x 39 cm. National Gallery, London

Exorcism is the only hope



Hidden distress

- Enacted stigma
- Felt stigma

Global burden

The artwork is a mixed media piece on canvas. It depicts two dark, heavily textured profiles of human heads, possibly representing different cultures or global populations, facing each other. The background is a light, mottled wash of white and pale yellow. A vertical red line, which appears to be a drip or a painted stroke, runs down the center of the composition, starting from a small red mark at the top. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Adél Kiss. Stigma.
Mixed technic,
canvas, 50 x 40 cm



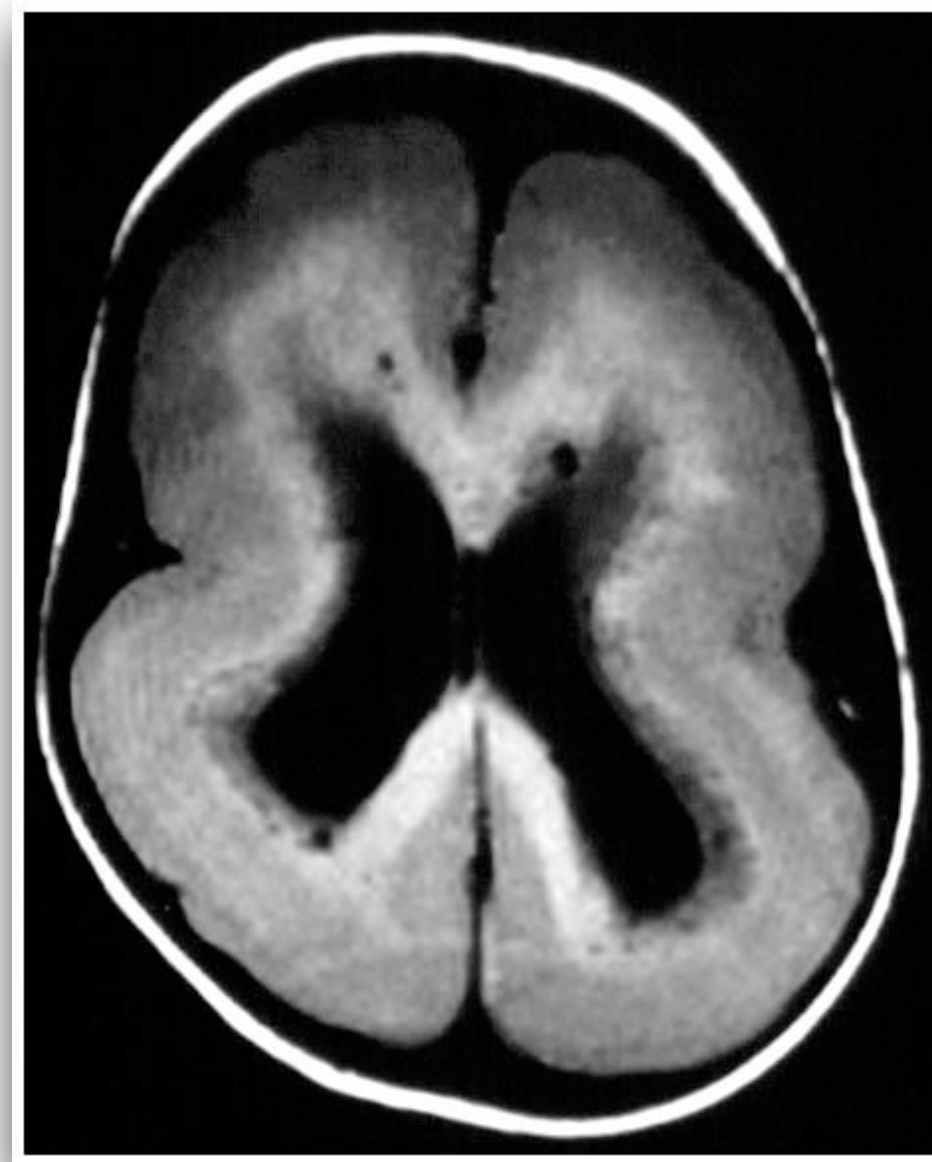
Comorbidity common

“When sorrows come, they come not single spies,
But in battalions.” William Shakespeare. *Hamlet*. Act IV, scene V

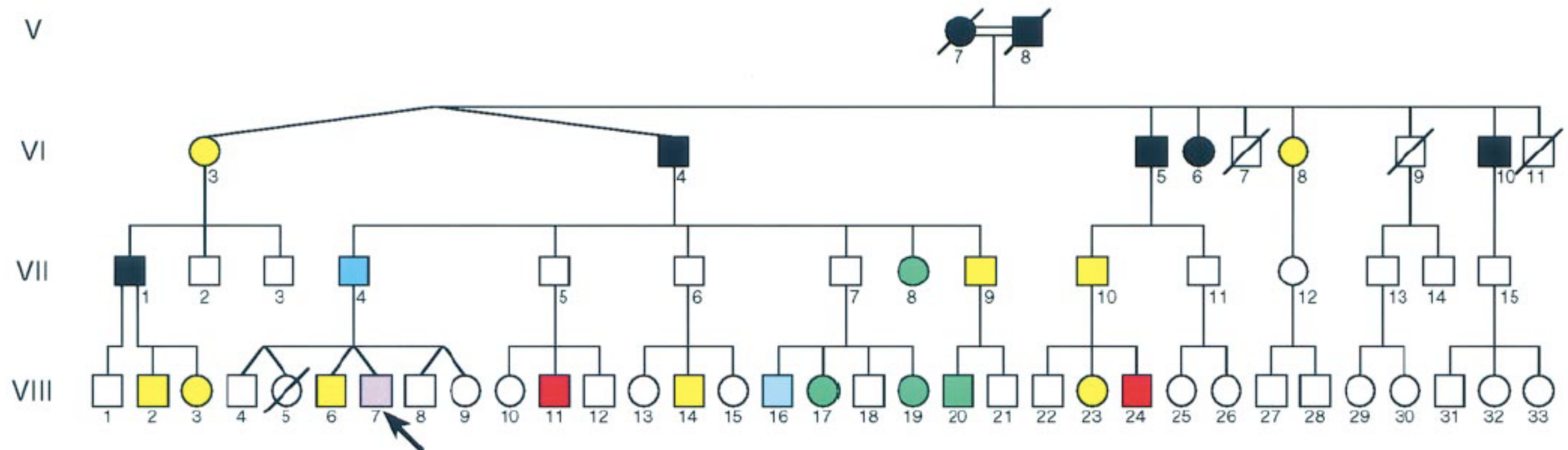
Mood change



Complicates the complicated



With genetics comes guilt



Scheffer IE, Berkovic SF. Generalised epilepsy with febrile seizures plus: a genetic disorder with heterogeneous clinical phenotypes. *Brain* 1997;120:479e90.

Lives disrupted



Driving ban

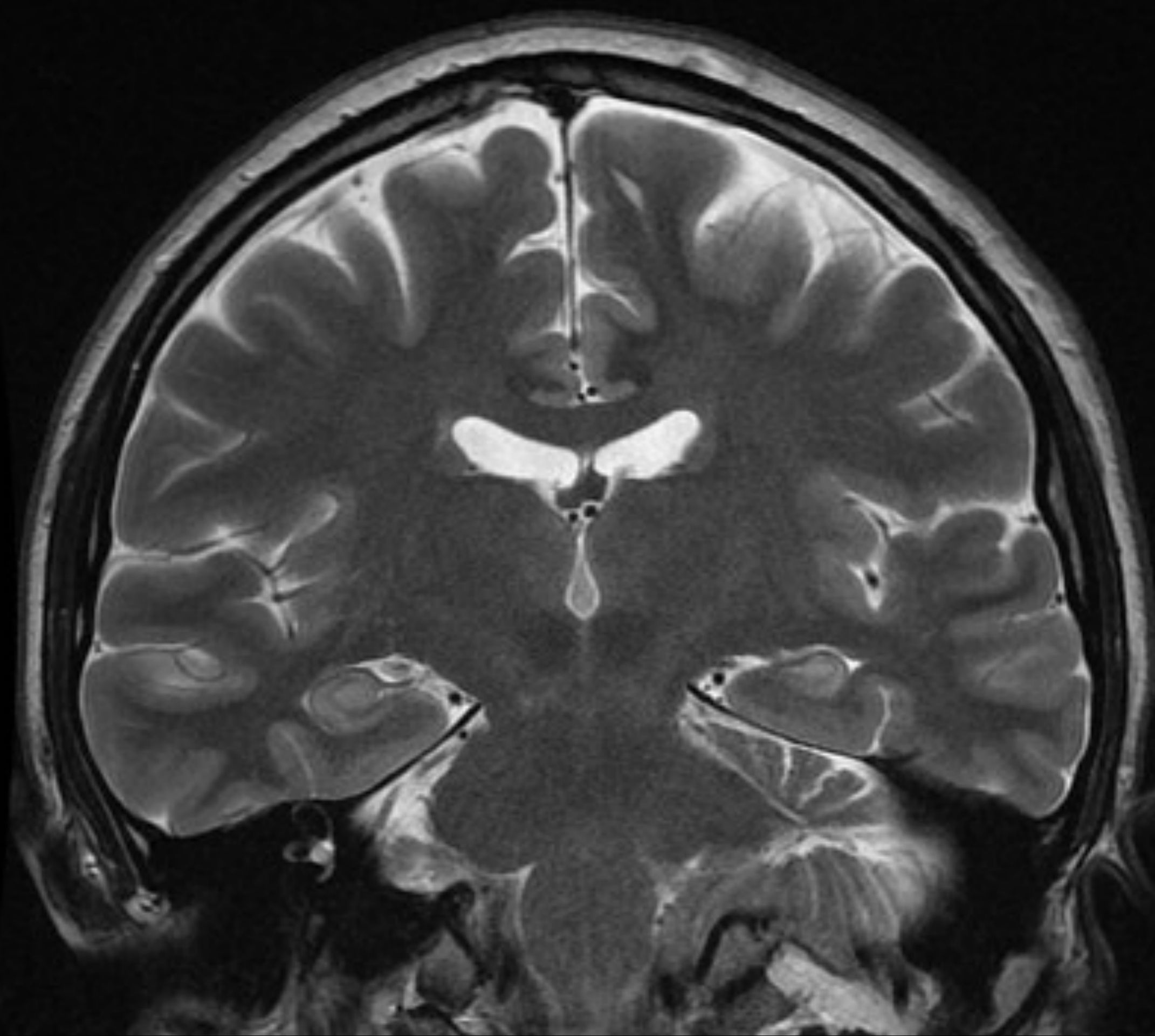


Affects all ages

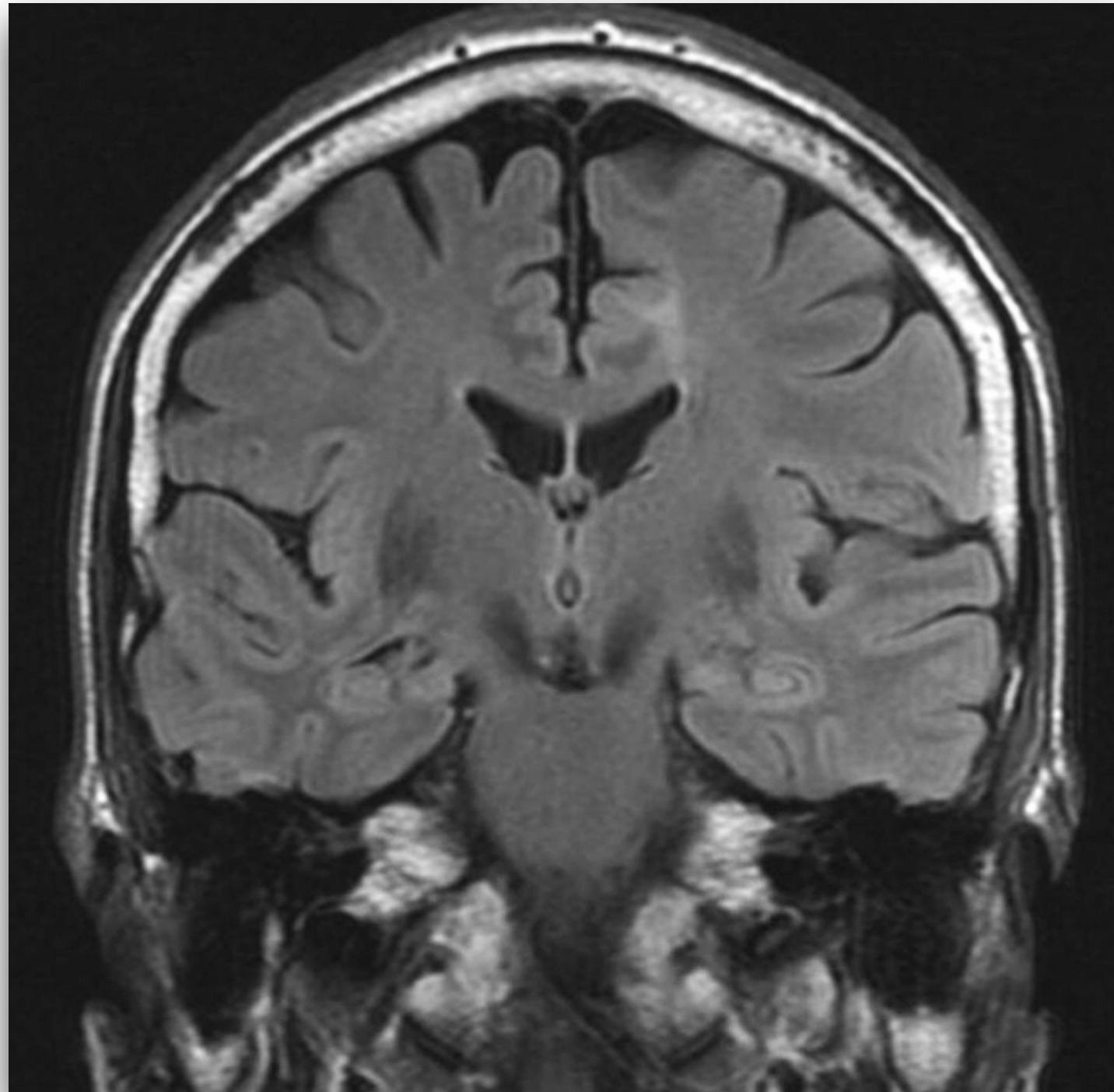


Many conditions



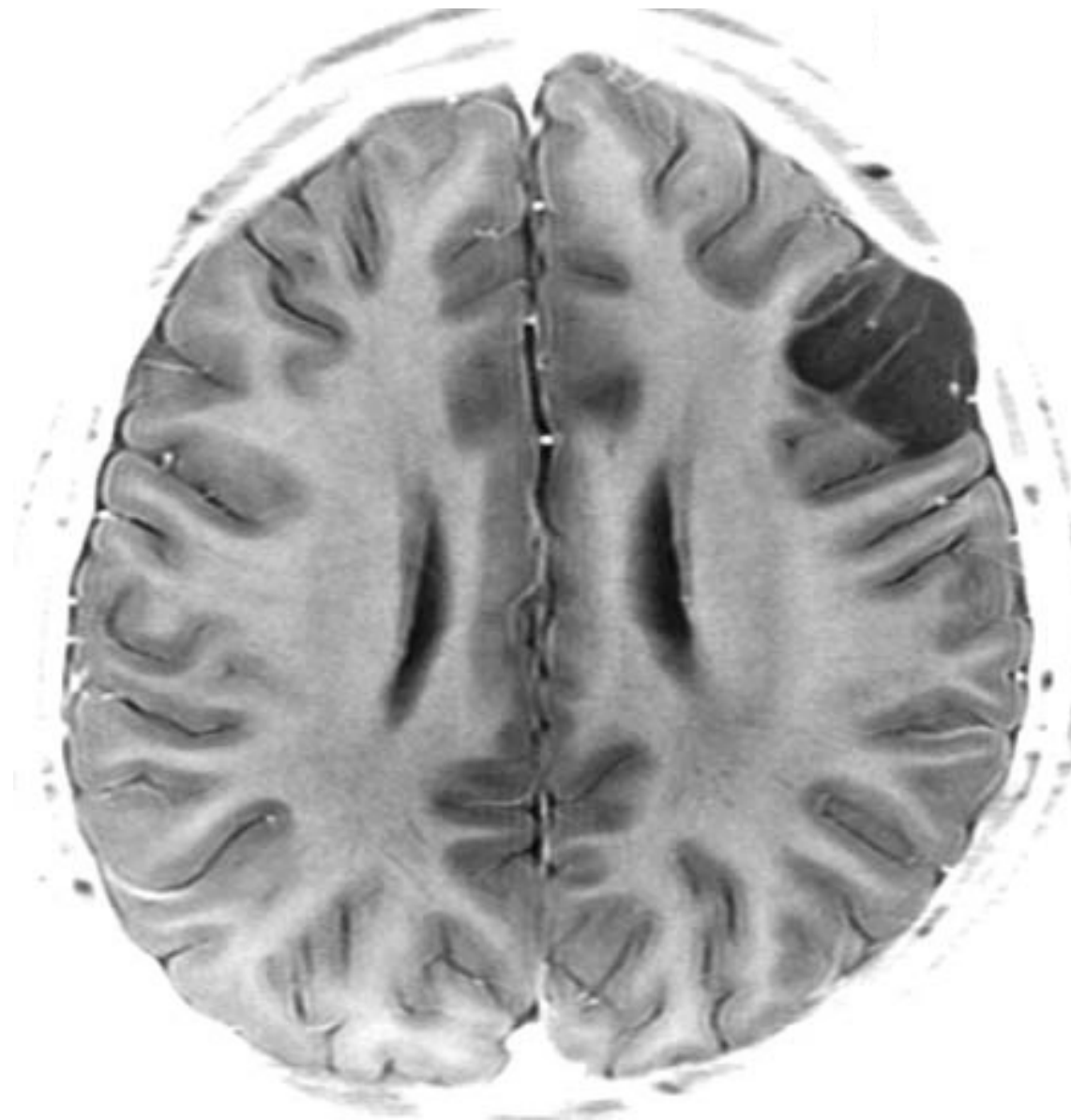


Focal cortical dysplasia



Needs detailed MR scanning

Brain tumours



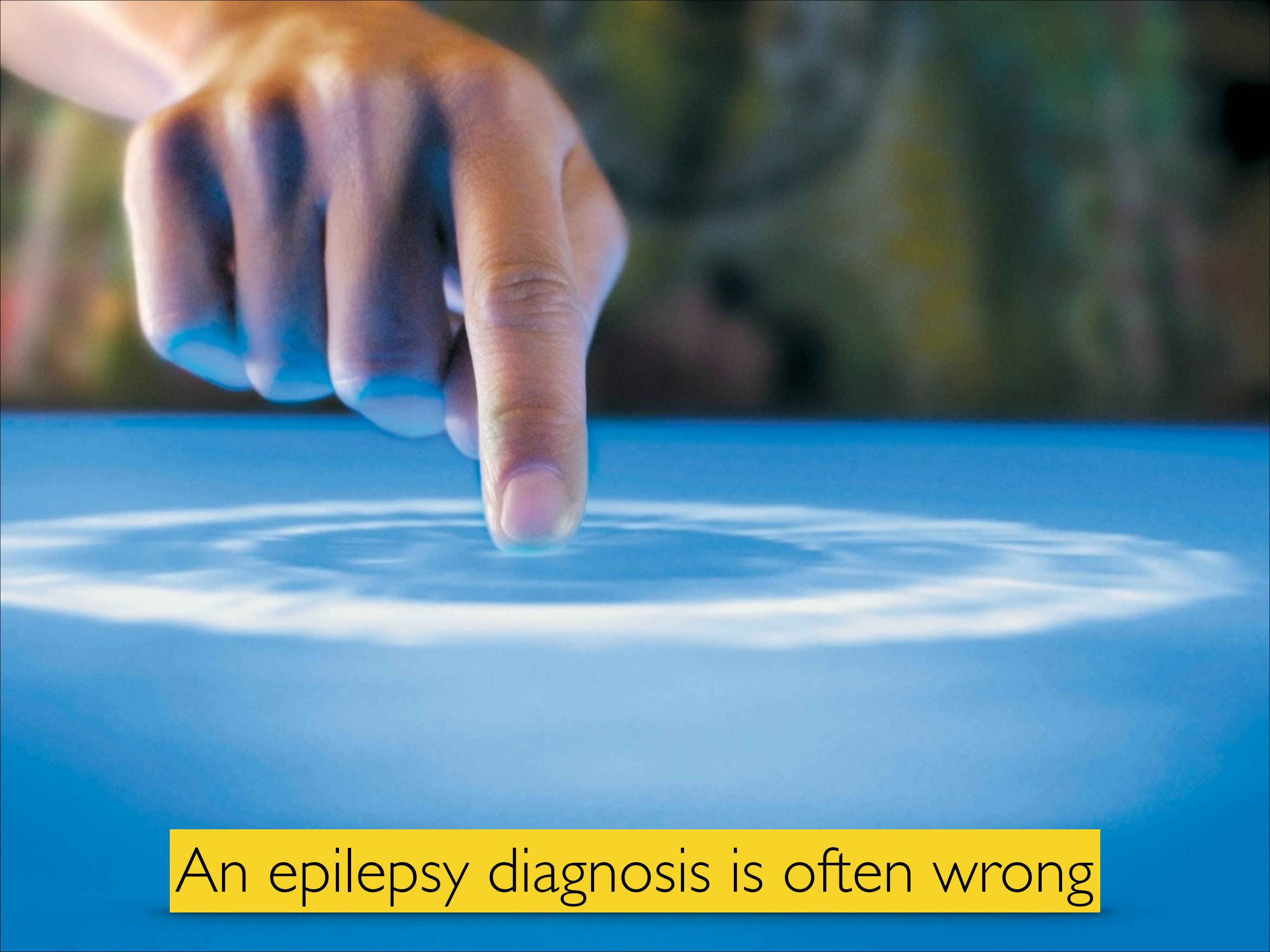
Slowly-growing tumours cause more seizures

Active listening is key



No reliable test



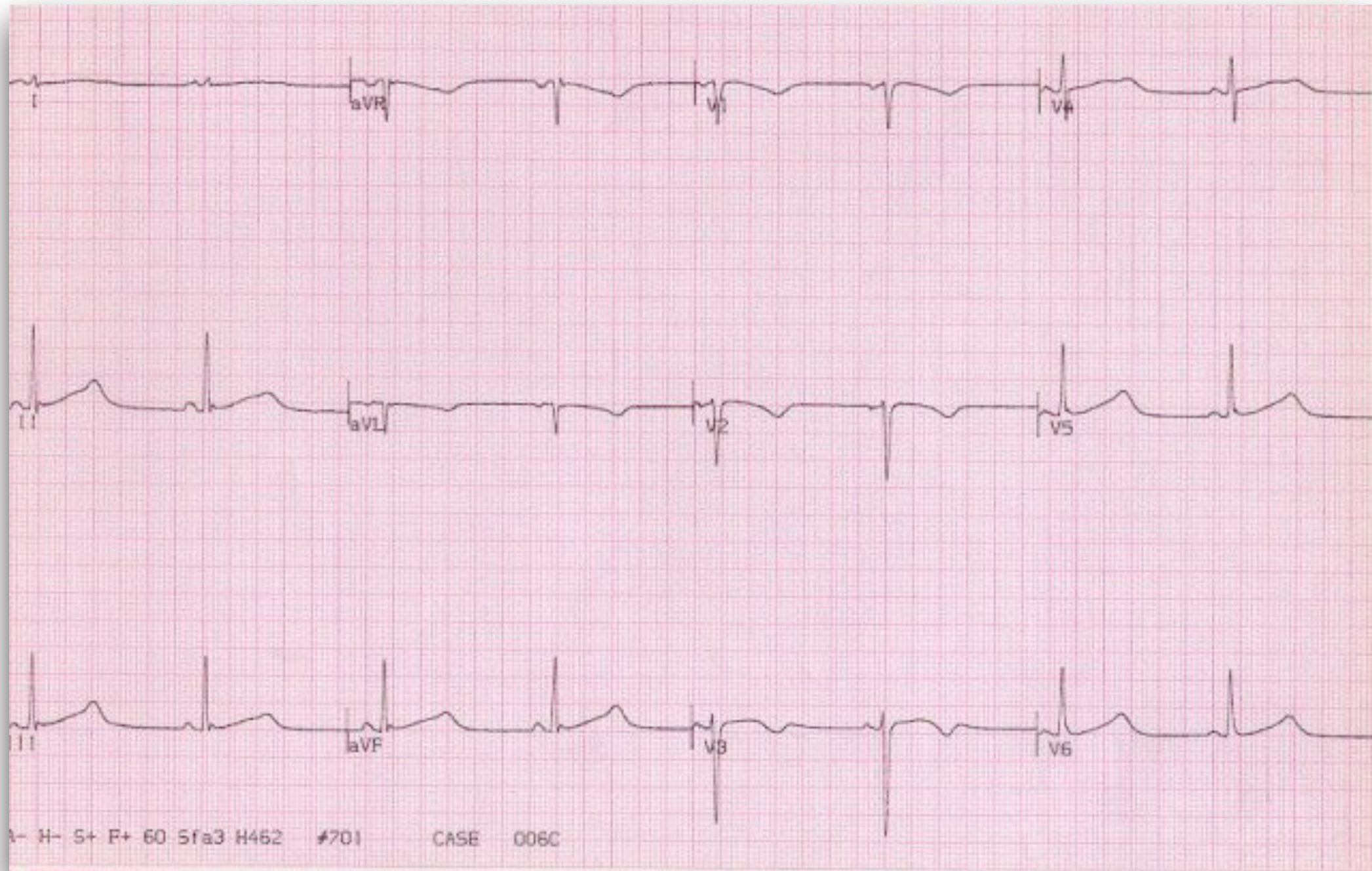


An epilepsy diagnosis is often wrong

Seizures in sleep



Seizures in sleep



Cardiac syncope may look just like epilepsy

Psychogenic non-epileptic seizures





Indescribable



Seizures in sleep



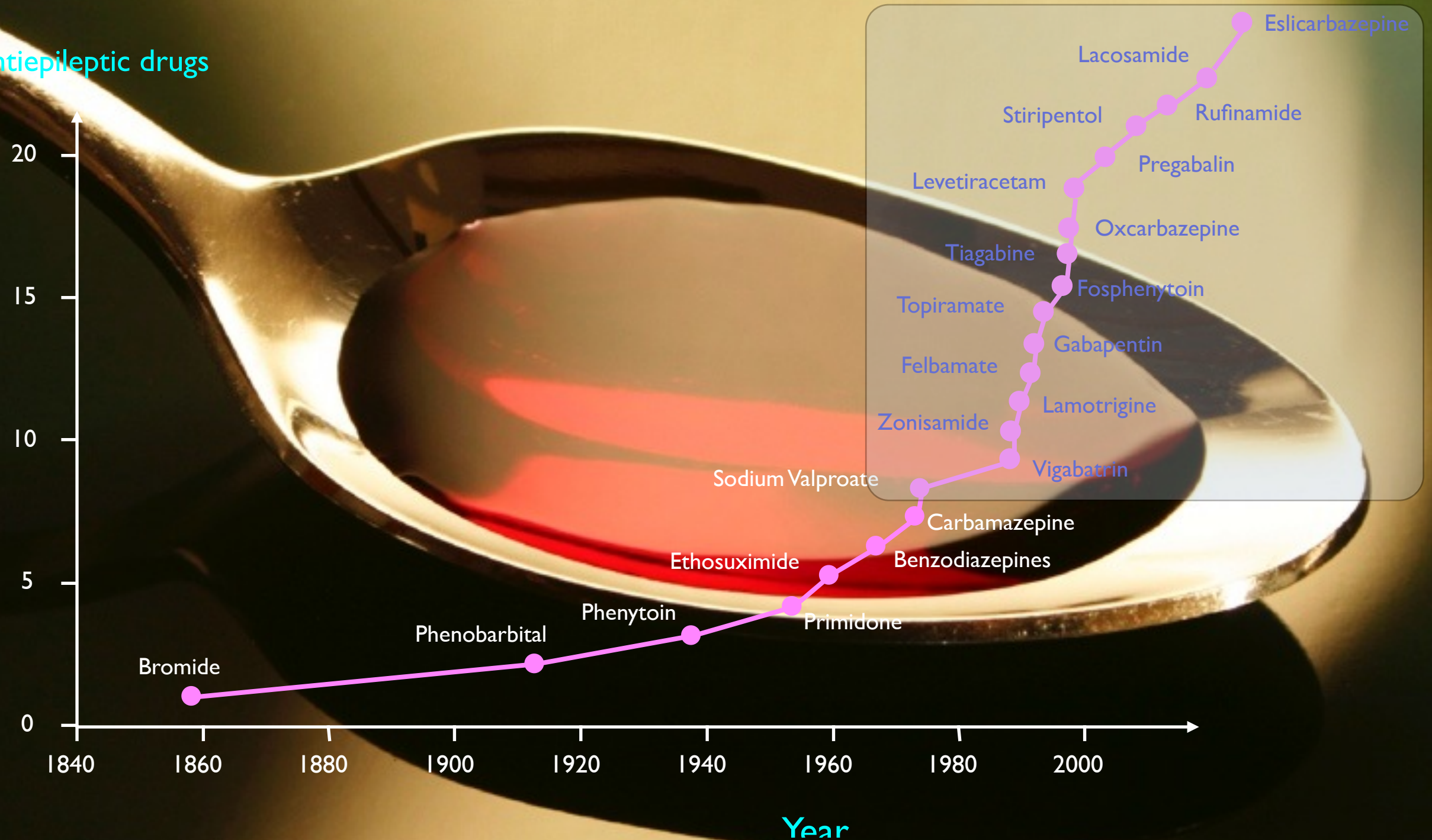
Seizures in sleep

- Recurrent episodes since aged 15 years
 - *sleep onset
 - *shouts and leaps from bed
 - *runs and may injure
 - *30–60 seconds
 - *up to 3 per night, up to 3 weeks with none
 - *all episodes similar
- EEG normal during a seizure

Frontal lobe seizures may look psychogenic

Wide choice of medication

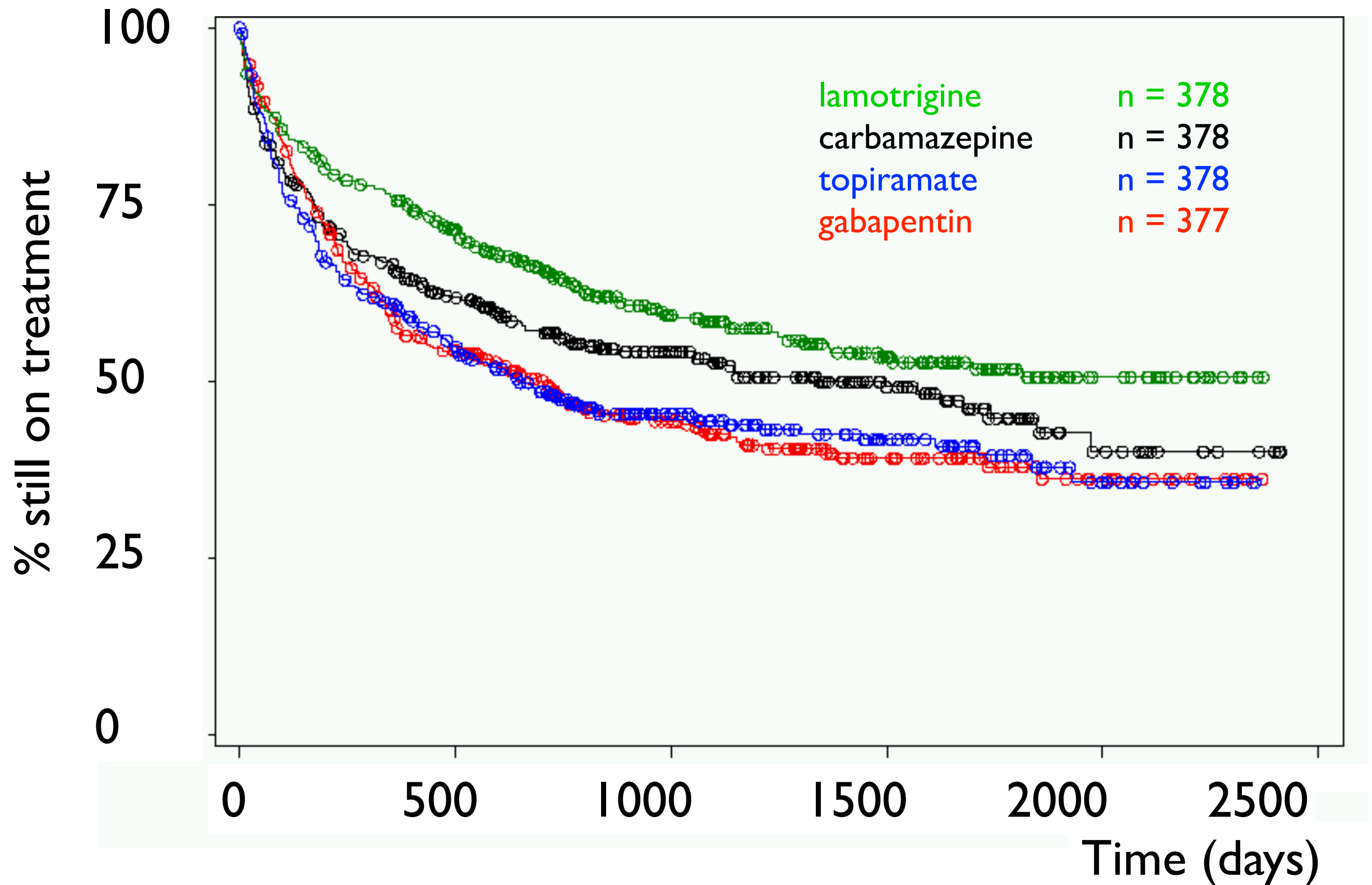
Antiepileptic drugs



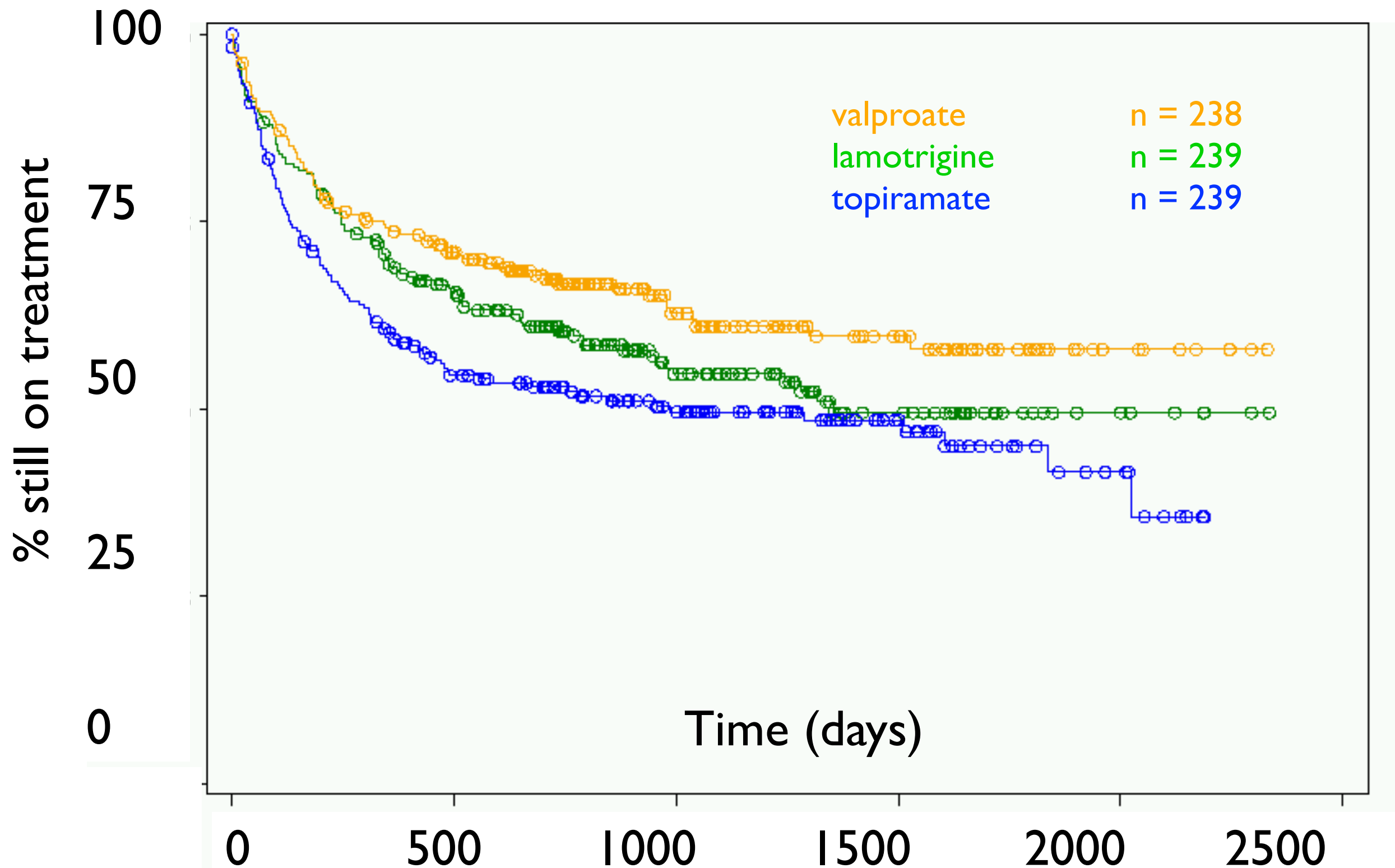
How to choose

Evidence
Eminence
Experience

SANAD: Focal—Time to treatment failure



SANAD: Generalised—Time to treatment failure



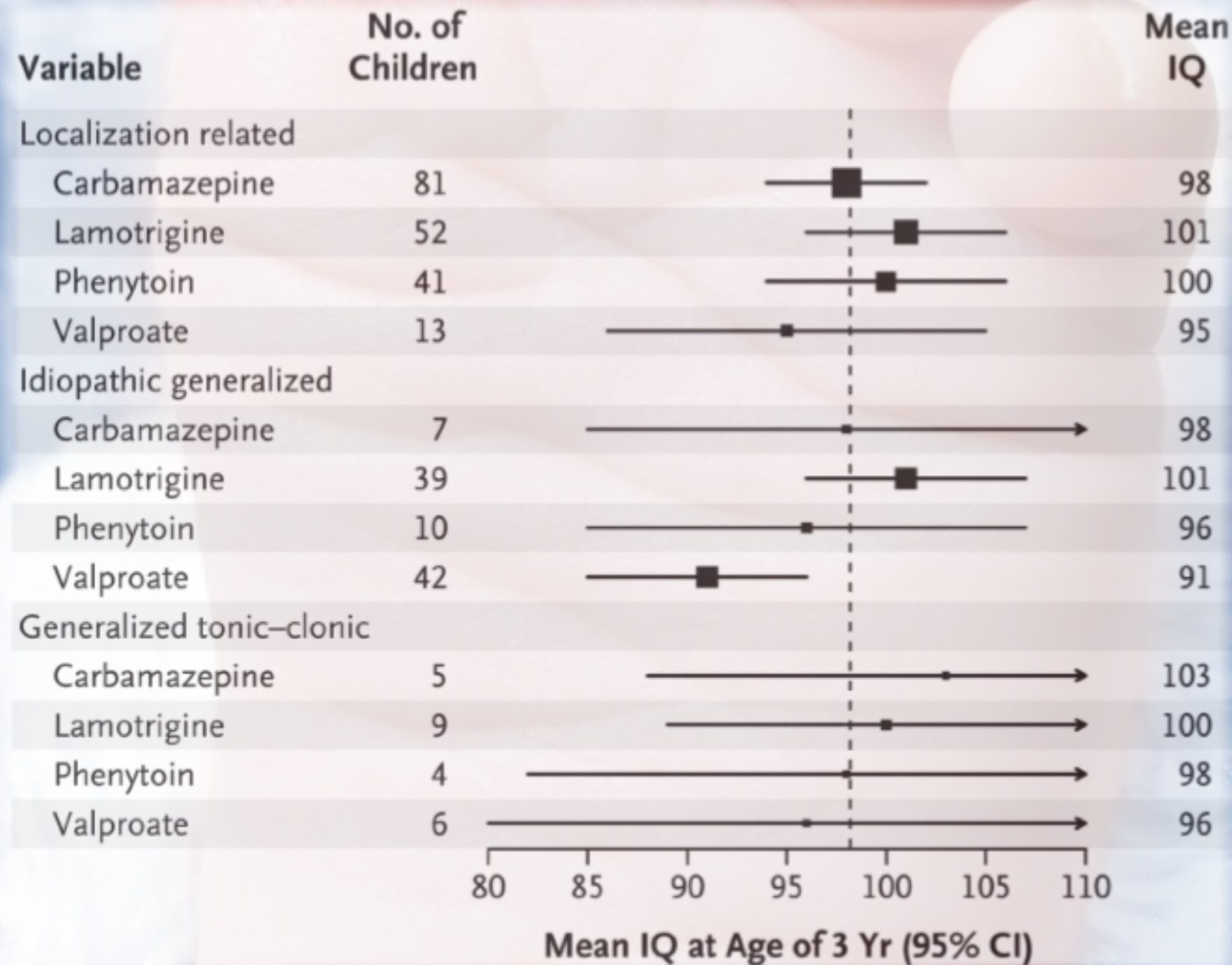


Women are special

Tablets for two



Valproate damages developing brains



Meador et al. Cognitive Function at 3 Years of Age after Fetal Exposure to Antiepileptic Drugs.
N Engl J Med 2009; 360: 1597–1605.

Sometimes fatal



Epilepsy is more than just seizures

- ★ Commonly concealed and highly stigmatised
- ★ Often misdiagnosed and mistreated
- ★ Comorbidity common and neglected
- ★ Special groups need special treatment

Jean-Joseph Taillasson (1745 – 1809)
Virgil reading the Aeneid to Augustus and Octavia, 1787
Oil on canvas, 147.2 x 166.9 cm
The National Gallery, London

You've seen one case of epilepsy



You've seen one case of epilepsy



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