

A Case of Epilepsy with Grand mal on Awakening Complicated by Orthostatic Dysregulation

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Abstract : This report presents the case of a 14-year-old girl who presented with epilepsy associated with grand mal on awakening combined with orthostatic dysregulation (OD). She complained of a loss of consciousness and fell down after getting up. She was evaluated by repeated electroencephalography examinations including overnight recordings, but no paroxysmal discharges were apparent. Her passive head-up tilt test was positive. The initial diagnosis was OD and she was treated with dihydroergotamine and given general advice about habit modification. However, the seizures continued after the initiation of treatment. These symptoms improved with the administration of valproic acid, and therefore the patient was finally diagnosed to have epilepsy with grand mal on awakening and OD. As many as 26% of all patients demonstrating epilepsy with grand mal on awakening do not show any electroencephalographic abnormalities. Though OD remains an important differential diagnosis for epilepsy, it sometimes also occurs in combination with epilepsy.

Key words : Epilepsy with grand mal on awakening, Orthostatic dysregulation, Syncope, Head up tilt test