



EDITORIAL

Seizure: One year after a change of Editorship

After the change of editorship in March 2004, new goals were defined and it is custom to evaluate the results after a year of publishing. *Seizure* aims to develop as an international journal with a scope of Europe and beyond, with a clinical orientation, fast publication speed and increasing impact.

In 2005 the impact factor is increased to an “all-time high 1.5”, publication speed increased (on average 22 weeks between submission and the on-line availability of the manuscripts and about 40 weeks until print). The clinical orientation is aimed to cover the wide range of epileptology, from basic research (with clinical implication) via drug trial results or new methods, to psychosocial research.

The articles in 2005 certainly cover such wide range and can be categorized in 10 basic groups.

1. Seizure semiology

Covering such topics as ‘symptoms in focal sensory seizures’,¹ ‘characteristics of first seizures’,² ‘perceived self-control of seizures’,³ ‘gelastic seizures’,⁴ ‘somatosensory auras’,⁵ ‘ictal dytonic posturing’,⁶ ‘pilotomotor seizures’,⁷ ‘dropped head syndrome’⁸ and ‘seizures in the newborn’.⁹

2. Drug treatment

Covering both clinical studies on ‘levetiracetam in refractory epilepsy’¹⁰ and children,¹¹ oxcarbazepine,¹² tiagabine,¹³ zonisamide (a full supplement of *Seizure*), the comparison of lamotrigine, vigabatrin and gabapentin,¹⁴ the comparison of ethosuximide, sodium valproate and lamotrigine,¹⁵ continuous midazolam infusion,¹⁶ intravenous valproate,¹⁷ topiramate in infants,¹⁸ carbamazepine¹⁹ and steroids.²⁰ Important data also came from experimental animal studies such as the effect of peptides²¹ or levetiracetam.²²

3. Non-drug treatment

Mostly these studies focused on vagus nerve stimulation.^{23,24}

4. EEG-studies

A wide range of topics were published here, such as ‘magnetoencephalography in negative myoclonus’,²⁵ ‘spiking related to sleep’²⁶ and ‘EEG abnormalities in febrile seizures’.²⁷

5. Psychosocial studies

Seizure aims to remain an important platform for psychosocial studies and in this publication year studies were published on e.g. ‘gender differences in psychogenic non-epileptic seizures’,²⁸ ‘anxiety with respect to seizure outcome after epilepsy surgery’²⁹ ‘economic consequences of epilepsy’,³⁰ ‘predictive factors in non-epileptic seizures’,³¹ ‘behaviour problems’,³² ‘drug-induced complaints’³³ and ‘injuries’.³⁴

6. Neuropsychology

Examples: ‘the effect of structural lesions on language’,³⁵ ‘neuropsychological impairments in children with BECTS’³⁶ and ‘non-verbal intelligence in relation to seizures’.³⁷

7. Neuroimaging studies

An increasing important area of studies with great impact on clinical practice is the use of neuroimaging. Although excellent journals exist in the area of neuroimaging several high quality studies were submitted to *Seizure*, e.g. ‘hippocampal atrophy and neurocysticercosis calcifications’,³⁸ ‘PET/SPECT’,³⁹ ‘hippocampal volume and comorbid disorders’.⁴⁰

8. Epilepsy in developing countries

In line with the ILAE/IBE/WHO ‘out of the shadows’ campaign several studies were published on the treatment problems in developing countries such as the ‘the ILAE/IBE/WHO study on the treatment gap in Senegal’,⁴¹ ‘stigma in Korea’.⁴²

9. Epilepsy surgery

An example: early hemispherotomy in Ohtahara syndrome.⁴³

10. Genetic studies

Finally this particular exciting area of study resulted in several publications such as on SCN1A mutation associated with severe GEFS+.⁴⁴

It is clear from this summary that there is a broad range of clinically oriented articles and that the studies are from all European countries and beyond. In fact the following list covers the countries of origin of the publications of seven of the eight issues published in 2005:

Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Czech Republic
Finland
Germany
Hungary
India
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Netherlands
Norway
Republic of Korea
Senegal
Serbia
South Korea
Sweden
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States of America

Finally, the Editorial Board has changed, both in composition and in tasks. The board now serves mainly as the 'parliament' advising the editorship in aims and philosophy of the journal and helps to assess its current goals. The new Editorial Board consists of:

Alexis Arzimanoglou (Paris, France)
Gus Baker ((Liverpool, UK)
Roy G. Beran (New South Wales, Australia)
Martin J. Brodie (Glasgow, UK)
Richard Dasheiff (Dallas, USA)
Marc A. Dichter (Philadelphia, USA)
Olivier Dulac (Paris, France)
John Duncan (Bucks, UK)
Christian E. Elger (Bonn, Germany)
Antonio Gil-Nagel (Madrid, Spain)
Renzo Guerrini (Pisa, Italy)
Ann Jacoby (Liverpool, UK)
Kristina Malmgren (Göteborg, Sweden)
Pavel Mareš (Prague, Czech Republic)
Antonio Martins da Silva (Porto, Portugal)
Dick Mattson (New Haven, USA)
Çiğdem Özkara (Istanbul, Turkey)
Emilio Perucca (Pavia, Italy)

Steven C. Schachter (Boston, USA)
Dieter Schmidt (Berlin, Germany)
Jose M. Serratosa (Madrid, Spain)
Matti Sillanpää (Turku, Finland)
Hermann Stefan (Erlangen, Germany)
Pam J. Thompson (Bucks, UK)
Peter D. Williamson (Lebanon, USA)
Peter Wolf (Dianalund, Denmark)

References

1. Di Bonaventura C, Giallonardo AT, Fattouch J, Manfredi M. Symptoms in focal sensory seizures: clinical and electroencephalographic features. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:1–9.
2. Bhatt H, Matharu MS, Henderson K, Greenwood R. An audit of first seizures presenting to an Accident and Emergency Department. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:58–61.
3. Lee SA, No YJ. Perceived self-control of seizures in patients with uncontrolled partial epilepsy. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:100–5.
4. Striano S, Striano P, Sarappa C, Boccella P. The clinical spectrum and natural history of gelastic epilepsy-hypothalamic hamartoma syndrome. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:232–9.
5. Tuxhorn IEB. Somatosensory auras in focal epilepsy: A clinical, video EEG and MRI study. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:262–8.
6. Holl A, Feichtinger M, Körner E, Stefan H, Ott E. Ictal dystonic posturing in mesial versus neocortical temporal lobe seizures. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:269–73.
7. Usui N, Kajita Y, Maesawa S, Endo O, Takebayashi S, Yoshida J. Pilomotor seizures in mesial temporal lobe epilepsy: a case confirmed by intracranial EEG. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:288–91.
8. Brázdil M, Fojtíková D, Košťálová E, Bareš M, Kuba R, Pažourková M, et al. Dropped head syndrome in severe intractable epilepsies with mental retardation. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:282–7.
9. Mastrangelo M, van Lierde A, Bray M, Pastorino G, Marini A, Mosca F. Epileptic seizures, epilepsy and epileptic syndromes in newborns: A nosological approach to 94 new cases by the 2001 proposed diagnostic scheme for people with epileptic seizures and with epilepsy. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:301–11.
10. Mohanraj R, Parker PG, Stephen LJ, Brodie MJ. Levetiracetam in refractory epilepsy: a prospective international study. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:23–7.
11. Lagae L, Buyse G, Ceulemans B. Clinical experience with levetiracetam in childhood epilepsy: an add-on and monotherapy trial. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:66–71.
12. Rainesalo S, Peltola J, Auvinen A, Keränen T. Retention rate of oxcarbazepine monotherapy in a unselected population of adult epileptics. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:72–4.
13. Arroyo S, Boothman BR, Brodie MJ, Duncan JS, Duncan R, Nieto M, et al. A randomised open-label study of tiagabine given two or three times daily in refractory epilepsy. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:81–4.
14. McDonald DGM, Najam Y, Keegan MB, Whooley M, Madden D, McMenamin JB. The use of lamotrigine, vigabatrin and gabapentin as add-on therapy in intractable epilepsy of childhood. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:112–6.
15. Posner EB, Khalid M, Marson AG. A systematic review of treatment of typical absence seizures in children and

- adolescents with ethosuximide, sodium valproate or lamotrigine. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:117–22.
16. Ozdemir D, Gulez P, Uran N, Yendur G, Kavakli T, Aydin A. Efficacy of continuous midazolam infusion and mortality in childhood refractory generalized convulsive status epilepticus. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:129–32.
 17. Peters CAN, Pohlmann-Eden B. Intravenous valproate as an innovative therapy in seizure emergency situations including status epilepticus—experience in 102 adult patients. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:164–9.
 18. Grosso S, Galimberti D, Farnetani MA, Cioni M, Mostardini R, Vivarelli R, et al. Efficacy and safety of topiramate in infants according to epilepsy syndromes. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:183–9.
 19. Hiremath GK, Kotagal P, Bingaman W, Hovinga C, Wyllie E, Morris H, et al. Risk factors of carbamazepine elevation and toxicity following epilepsy surgery. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:312–7.
 20. Verhelst H, Boon P, Buyse G, Ceulemans B, D'Hooghe M, de Meirleir L, et al. Steroids in intractable childhood epilepsy: clinical experience and review of the literature. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:412–21.
 21. Stanojlović OP, Živanović DP, Mirković SD, Mikhalvena II. Antiepileptic activity of delta sleep-inducing peptide and its analogue in metaphitprovek seizures in rats. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:240–7.
 22. Dedeurwaerdere S, Boon P, de Smedt T, Claeys P, Raedt R, Bosman T, et al. Chronic levetiracetam treatment early in life decreases epileptiform events in young GAERS, but does not prevent the expression of spike and wave discharges during adulthood. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:403–11.
 23. Majoie M, Berfelo MW, Aldenkamp AP, Renier WO, Kessels AG... Vagus nerve stimulation in patients with catastrophic childhood epilepsy, a 2-year follow-up study. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:10–8.
 24. Vonck K, Dedeurwaerdere S, de Groote L, Thadani V, Claeys P, Gossiaux F, et al. Generator replacement in epilepsy patients treated with vagus nerve stimulation. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:89–99.
 25. Kubota M, Nakura M, Hirose H, Kimura I, Sakakihara Y. A magnetoencephalographic study of negative myoclonus in a patient with atypical benign partial epilepsy. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:28–32.
 26. Clemens Z, Janszky J, Clemens B, Szücs A, Halász P. Factors affecting spiking related to sleep and wake states in temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE). *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:52–7.
 27. Joshi C, Wawrykow T, Patrick J, Prasad A. Do clinical variables predict an abnormal EEG in patients with complex febrile seizures? *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:429–34.
 28. Oto M, Conway P, McGonigal A, Russel AJ, Duncan R. Gender differences in psychogenic non-epileptic seizures. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:33–9.
 29. Mattson P, Tibblin B, Kihlgren M, Kumlien E. A prospective study of anxiety with respect to seizure outcome after epilepsy surgery. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:40–5.
 30. Penberthy LT, Towne A, Garnett LK, Perlin JB, DeLorenzo RJ. Estimating the economic burden of status epilepticus to the health care system. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:46–51.
 31. Kotsopoulos I, de Krom M, Kessels F, Lodder J, Troost J, Twellaar M, et al. Incidence of epilepsy and predictive factors of epileptic and non-epileptic seizures. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:175–82.
 32. Shankar Datta S, Premkumar TS, Chandy S, Kumar S, Kirubakaran C, Gnanamuthu C, et al. Behaviour problems in children and adolescents with seizure disorder: associations and risk factors A. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:190–7.
 33. Carpay JA, Aldenkamp AP, van Donselaar CA. Complaints associated with the use of antiepileptic drugs: results from a community-based study. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:198–206.
 34. Deekollu D, Besag FMC, Aylett SE. Seizure-related injuries in a group of young people with epilepsy wearing protective helmets: Incidence, types and circumstances. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:347–53.
 35. Goldberg-Stern H, Gadoth N, Ficker D, Privitera M. The effect of age and structural lesions on postictal language impairment. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:62–5.
 36. Vinayan KP, Biji V, Thomas SV. Educational problems with underlying neuropsychological impairment are common in children with Benign Epilepsy of Childhood with Centrotemporal Spikes (BECTS). *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:207–12.
 37. Høie B, Mykletun A, Sommerfelt K, Bjørnæs H, Skeidsvoll H, Waaler PE. Seizure-related factors and non-verbal intelligence in children with epilepsy: A population-based study from Western Norway. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:223–31.
 38. Nogueira da Gama C, Kobayashi E, Li LM, Cendes F. Hippocampal atrophy and neurocysticercosis calcifications. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:85–8.
 39. Lee JJ, Kang WJ, Lee DS, Lee JS, Hwang H, Kim KJ, et al. Diagnostic performance of ¹⁸F-FDG PET and ictal ^{99m}Tc-HMPAO SPET in pediatric temporal lobe epilepsy: Quantitative analysis by statistical parametric mapping, statistical probabilistic anatomical map, and subtraction ictal SPET. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:213–20.
 40. Baxendale SA, Thompson PJ, Duncan JS. Epilepsy & depression: The effects of comorbidity on hippocampal volume—A pilot study. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:435–8.
 41. Ndoye NF, Sow AD, Diop AG, Sessouma B, Sène-Diouf F, Boissy L, et al. Prevalence of epilepsy its treatment gap and knowledge, attitude and practice of its population in sub-urban Senegal an ILAE/IBE/WHO study. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:106–11.
 42. Lee SA, Yoo HJ, Lee BI. Korean QoL in Epilepsy Study. Factors contributing to the stigma of epilepsy. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:157–63.
 43. Hmaïmess G, Raftopoulos C, Kadhim H, Nassogne MC, Ghariani S, de Tourtchaninoff M, et al. Impact of early hemispherotomy in a case of Ohtahara syndrome with left parieto-occipital megalencephaly. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:439–42.
 44. Pineda-Trujillo N, Carrizosa J, Cornejo W, Arias W, Franco C, Cabrera D, et al. A novel SCN1A mutation associated with severe GEFS+ in a large South American pedigree. *Seizure Eur J Epilepsy* 2005;14:123–8.

A.P. Aldenkamp
P.A.J.M. Boon
Editors-in-Chief