

POEM

Enough intervention

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Poetry is meant to express the emotions and thoughts often found difficult to state or even to put into prose. This clinician has dedicated his professional life to the rational treatment of epilepsy — for he understands only too well the consequences of varied interventions over a forty-year course of his own epilepsy. This poem is meant to remind other clinicians that quality of life may not always mean total seizure control.

Key words: epilepsy; treatment; quality of life; adverse effects.

Of the many patients that we have seen
How oft we wonder what might have been
We witness uncontrolled seizures in adult and child
And hear argued that surgical intervention is mild
The empathy that we feel
Can make their seizures seem so real
But objective distance
Taught us medical persistence
Medicines and surgeries have a price
Decisions should not be made with ice
Our goal is seizure control but at what cost
Does anyone think of quality of life lost
Weight gain, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, depression
Should teach physicians and surgeons a much needed lesson
Perhaps the seizures we clinicians fear
Does not address what a patient holds most dear
Sometimes one intervention less
The patient answers would have been best