Extra-temporal lobe epilepsy surgery in children

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Frontal Lobe Epilepsy (FLE) is the second most common type of localization-related epilepsy that undergoes surgical treatment and probably the most challenging in terms of medical and surgical treatment. Posterior Cortex Epilepsy (PCE) surgery accounts for about 20% in large pediatric series and its diagnostic complexity has been emphasized in literature. We present an exclusive pediatric patient population – age at surgery of less than 16 years - with at least 2 years of postoperative follow up, consisting in (i) a group of 85 children who underwent surgery for pharmacoresistant FLE with tailored resections located strictly within the anatomical limits of the Fl, and (ii) a group of 70 children who received resections in the posterior part of the brain, namely in the parieto-occipital lobes and the occipital border of the temporal lobe, for pharmacoresistant PCE. Thirty-eight percent of patients necessitated an invasive presurgical evaluation with Stereo-EEG. Seizure freedom (Engel class I) was achieved by 74% of the FLE group and 86% of the PCE group. Clinical characteristics, global outcome and prognostic elements of seizure outcome of these two distinct populations will be discussed.

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The emotional and psychological impact on radiation therapists of treating children in a large regional cancer centre, Canada

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The aim of this study was to determine the psychological effects and difficulties that Radiation Therapists (RTs) experience while treating pediatric patients. This study is intended to provide information to assist RTs in their occupation. A questionnaire was created specifically for this study standardized to TOHRCC conditions and methods; and inspired from the limited literature around this issue. The study converged on the reactions of RTs while children received radiation treatment at TOHRCC and the impact on their emotional state around this component of their practice. Due to the sample size, statistical correlations and links between variables were limited. The questionnaire was analyzed based on the answers given by the RTs on the provided Likert scale for each question. The questionnaire showed that gender and age played no major role in the RTs’ ability to cope mentally. Half of the RTs had children themselves; and of these, 66% indicated that having children made it somehow more difficult to cope emotionally with pediatric patients. Other factors include the emotional state of parents or caregivers of the affected children and time constraints played a key role in the anxiety they felt during a child’s treatment. Results from this survey were used to create a new tool describing the cognitive stages in children to help RTs treat pediatric patients in the future.

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