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SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN EPILEPSY IN 45 YEARS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND CRIMINALISTICS IN RIJEKA, CROATIA

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Objective: The aim of this study was to compare the available data of deaths from epilepsy in the period from 1968 to 2013 from the archives of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics in Rijeka, and to determine the basic characteristics of the study group in order to lay the foundations for further research.

Patients and Methods: The study includes 26 cases of death due to epilepsy and studies concerning gender and age of the deceased, the number of deaths per year in the period of 45 years, the frequency of deaths by month and place of death.

Results: Of all the 26 cases surveyed, 17 (65%) were men, and 9 (35%) females. the most frequently, victims were middle aged men [N=18 (68%) aged 19-65 years; 12 males, 6 females], while an equal number of victims were found at the usual place of their residence and outside it. Occurrence of SUDEP doubles in the last 20 years, while their distribution through the year is balanced with a slight increase during the summer season (peak values for the July and August).

Conclusion: The analysis of the results and their presentation is trying to determine links that could facilitate further research in the form of definition for the parameters to be taken into account when setting up such a diagnosis. This paper quantifies the incidence of SUDEP. Also, our goal was to show the problems of the post-mortem diagnosis of SUDEP.

Biography

Ivan Sosa has completed his PhD at the age of 34 years from Rijeka University Medical Faculty. He lectures legal medicine and cooperates with several medical journals. He has published more than 30 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of reputed.

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