

SUMMARY

Analysis of treatment of patients with epilepsy dispenzarized in University Thomayer's Hospital in Prague

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Background: Studies on antiepileptic drug utilization are important for evaluation of epilepsy treatment and risk of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs).

Aim: To describe group of patients with epilepsy, AEDs utilization patterns and adverse drug reactions (ADRs) of AEDs.

Methods: Data were retrieved from medical records in University Thomayer's Hospital in period 2005 - 2006. Epileptic outpatients (n = 97) aged over 16 years were considered for analysis.

Results: The age ranged from 17 to 72 years (mean 55), 62 % were women. Partial seizures were diagnosed in 62 % of patients. 31 % of patients were more than 2 years without seizures, 39 % of patients had more than 12 seizures per year. More than half (65 %) of the patients were treated with polytherapy. Lamotrigin was the most commonly prescribed AED (20 %), followed by valproate (18 %) and carbamazepine (17 %). The most frequently prescribed AED in monotherapy was valproate, followed by lamotrigin, carbamazepine and levetiracetam. The ADRs were recorded in 41 patients. The most frequently mentioned ADRs were those related to central nervous system, dyspepsia, exanthema and weight gain.

Conclusions: Unlike in most other studies, polytherapy was the most frequently used regiment in treatment of epilepsy corresponding to wider amount of patients with partial seizures or difficult-to-treat epilepsy referred to this epilepsy center. The most frequently prescribed AEDs were lamotrigin, followed by valproate and carbamazepine. AED utilization in our study shows similar trends in epilepsy treatment to those described in other countries.