Postoperative EEG in Hemimegalencephaly

Laurent Sheybani\textsuperscript{a}  Christian Korff\textsuperscript{b}  Oliver Maier\textsuperscript{e}  Maria-Isabel Vargas\textsuperscript{c}
Karl Schaller\textsuperscript{d}  Margitta Seeck\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Neurology, University Hospital of Geneva, \textsuperscript{b}Pediatric Neurology, Pediatric Specialties Service, Child and Adolescent Department, University Hospitals, Geneva, \textsuperscript{c}Department of Neuroradiology, University Hospital of Geneva and University of Geneva, \textsuperscript{d}Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital of Geneva and Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, \textsuperscript{e}Department of Neuropediatrics, Children’s Hospital St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Hemimegalencephaly is a congenital malformation characterized by a unilaterally enlarged and anatomically abnormal hemisphere, often associated with seizures. Patients with this syndrome are often responsive to functional hemispherotomy. Figure 1 is from a 3-month-old girl who had been suffering from severe treatment-resistant epilepsy since birth, due to right hemimegalencephaly. After three disconnective neurosurgical procedures, the girl was free of clinical seizures. However, ictal activity over the abnormal hemisphere was still recorded 7 months after the last operation, but disappeared a year later (fig. 2). We conclude that an ipsilateral ictal pattern may be part of the postoperative EEG, without indicating incomplete disconnection.

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References

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Fig. 1. Preoperative MRI (a) shows right hemimegalencephaly; ictal EEG (b) right, predominantly anterior activity.
Fig. 2. Seven months after the third operation, EEG shows persistent ictal activity confined to the isolated hemisphere (a); a year later, only a decreased background activity with intermittent bursts of rapid rhythms was recorded (b).