INTRODUCTION

The European Federation of Dravet Syndrome with Dravet Italia Onlus, Associazione Famiglie Lennox-Gastaut Italia Onlus, Federazione Italiana Epilessie and Centro Ricerca Epilessie in età Pediatrica, has promoted a short and simple questionnaire in order to evaluate the impact of falls arising from seizures associated with different forms of epilepsy.

GOALS

- Generate a new evidence base to aid our understanding of the incidence of falls in patients with epilepsy.
- Enhance the data comprehension in order to start ventures aimed at the research of new evidence base to aid our understanding of the incidence of falls in patients with epilepsy.
- Generate a new evidence base to aid our understanding of the incidence of falls in patients with drug-resistant epilepsy.

METHODS

An online survey collecting anonymous data, open from 12th May to 31st October 2017, consisted of 21 questions relating to:

- epilepsy type
- age of person affected by epilepsy
- type of fall during seizure
- helmet use
- interest in having a head protection system in case of an epileptic fall

The survey was completed both by patients affected by epilepsy that fall during or after a seizure, and by those who do not, but only those who reported falls were taken into consideration.

The attendees were recruited by mail, through Facebook and Twitter, and, in Italy, via posters displayed in the various expertise centres.

The survey was translated into English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Croatian, Romanian and Dutch. All the translations were verified by local operators before the launch of the survey itself.

THANKS TO:

The authors would like to thank all those who responded to the survey. The authors would also like to thank the European Federation of Dravet Syndrome members, the Associazione Famiglia Sindrome Lennox-Gastaut Italia Onlus members, the Federazione Italiana Epilessie members, and the Dravet Italia Onlus members for the preparation, correction and translation during the preparation of the survey material and for the dissemination of the campaign.

RESULTS FROM PRELIMINARY DATA

Demographics

- 632 fully completed surveys were submitted (50% from Italy, 12% from France, 6% from Germany, 3% from Romania, 4% each from the Netherlands, the UK and Brazil, 3% each from Portugal and Croatia, 2% from Belgium and 1% from all other countries."

Epilepsy type

- 337 patients were affected by Dravet Syndrome, 71 by Lennox Gastaut Syndrome, 222 by other Epilepsies and 1 was not specified.

Age of person affected by epilepsy

- The population is quite heterogeneous except in the case of "other epilepsy" where there is a high proportion of adults (50%).

Falls during a seizure

- Falls were reported in 281 out of 632 responses (44%) and fallbacks in 212 responses (33%).

Falls type

- 289 (36%) subjects had violent falls, and 453 (56%) subjects fell during a seizure. Analysing violent falls, 315 patients (46%) dropped from a tone increase, 289 (36%) subjects had violent falls, and 453 (56%) subjects fell during a seizure.

CONCLUSION

- Interest in a system such as an AIR-BAG or other system in order to PROTECT the head in case of epileptic fall
- 75% of patients expressed interest in a fall protection system.

CONSIDERATION OF HELMET USE

- 71 (11%) have more than 50 violent falls in a year.
- 35% (158) dropped from 1 to 5 times in a year.
- 25% (112) have more than 50 violent falls in a year.

Evaluation of falls of epileptic patients

Sudden and violent fall

- Yes, sometimes
- Yes, frequently
- Yes, in the past
- No, never
- Don't want to answer

No of seizures during a year

- 25% (112) have more than 50 violent falls in a year.
- 38% (170) have from 6 to 50 drops in a year.
- 35% (158) dropped from 1 to 5 times in a year.

Surveys Fall – Falls of Epileptic Patients

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