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COMMENT. These authors recommend a carefully monitored trial of immediate-release methylphenidate (MPH) in the treatment of ADHD with comorbid chronic tic disorder (CTD). Larger doses of MPH resulted in minimal increased effectiveness, but with a greater likelihood of tic exacerbation and adverse effects on heart rate, blood pressure and weight. The improved tic control reported by teachers in the classroom, in contrast to the physicians' report of an increase in simple tics with larger doses, may be explained by a student's ability to suppress tics in the stigmatizing school environment. Evaluations in multiple environments are necessary to determine the true frequency and severity of a tic disorder. A non-stimulant such as atamoxetine may be an alternative initial drug of choice for the treatment of ADHD and comorbid CTD, but immediate-release MPH in conservative doses may be safe and effective.

LANGUAGE DISORDERS

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND CSWSS EPILEPSY SYNDROME

Linguistic and pragmatic skills (comprehension that is context dependent) were examined in 10 right-handed children and adolescents with the continuous spike-waves during slow sleep syndrome (CSWSS) and compared to that of a control population of 36 children, in a study at CHRU de Tours and Universite Francois Rabelais, Tours, France. Patients with CSWSS had lower scores in tests measuring lexical and pragmatic skills compared to controls, whereas oral comprehension was unaffected. Language impairment showed no improvement when patients were in remission and even after total disappearance of EEG anomalies. The language impairment profile of CSWSS is different from that of Landau-Kleffner syndrome, characterized by auditory and verbal agnosia with limited spoken language and loss of verbal comprehension. Evaluation of language skills and long-term outcome are important in the management of epileptic syndromes. (Debiais S, Tuller L, Barthez M-A et al. Epilepsy and language development; The continuous spike-waves during slow sleep syndrome. *Epilepsia* June 2007;48:1104-1110). (Reprints: Dr Caroline Hommet, Service de Neurologie, CHRU de Tours, 37044 Tours cedex, France).

COMMENT. Continuous spike-waves during slow sleep syndrome (CSWSS) is a childhood epilepsy characterized by EEG spike waves during at least 85% of slow sleep, and clinically, by neuropsychological and behavioral disorders. CSWSS and Landau-Kleffner syndrome are similar in age of onset, mild epilepsy, and severe neuropsychological disorders. The present study shows that both syndromes are associated with impairments in language development, but the acquired dysphasias have different profiles. It is postulated that the nature and severity of the neuropsychological and language deficits are determined by the site of paroxysmal activity during early cerebral and language development.