extremities, inappropriate laughter, and seizures. Seizures are generalized in 90% of patients. Deafness has been reported previously, but the abnormal auditory brain stem responses recorded in this study appear to be unique.

Eight sporadic cases of Angelman syndrome associated with chromosome 15q12 deletion are reported from the Central Hospital, and Kobato Gakuen, Aichi Prefectural Colony, Japan (Matsumoto A et al. Epilepsia 1992; 33: 1083). Angelman syndrome is included in the etiology of West, Lennox-Gastaut and other infantile-onset epileptic syndromes.

KETOGENIC DIET FOR INTRACTABLE SEIZURES

The efficacy of the ketogenic diet in 58 children with multiple seizure types resistant to antiepileptic drugs has been evaluated at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore. All patients had severe neurologic handicaps: mental retardation (84%), cerebral palsy (45%), and microcephaly (15%). Mean age at diet initiation was 60 months (range 12-235 months). EEGs showed Lennox-Gastaut pattern (33%), hypsarrhythmia (19%), and focal activity (14%). Antiepileptic drugs, including valproate, showed no adverse interaction. Seizures were completely controlled in 29%, and reduced by half in 38%. Diet was continued for an average of 24 months in those controlled and for 4 months in the unimproved group. Dietary benefit was not determined by seizure type. Renal stones required withdrawal of the diet in 2 patients. (Kinsman SL et al. Efficacy of the ketogenic diet for intractable seizure disorders: Review of 58 cases. Epilepsia Nov/Dec 1992; 33:1132-1136). (Reprints: Dr SL Kinsman, Kennedy Krieger Institute,707 N Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21205).

COMMENT. Despite further demonstration of its efficacy and relative safety, the ketogenic diet is not a popular method of therapy among neurologists generally. Apart from the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins, the diet is not frequently promoted in the training of pediatric neurologists and dieticians. Furthermore, the bias against fat in the diet in today's society adds to the difficulty in convincing mothers to become enthusiastic partners in the treatment program. Millichap JG at the Mayo Clinic (Epilepsia 1964; 5: 239) and Schwartz RM at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford (Dev Med Child Neurol 1989; 31: 145) studied the metabolic effects of the diet and were unable to document any significant changes in blood lipid profiles using the classical diet. For an account of the mechanism of action of the diet, see Millichap JG. Progress in Pediatric Neurology, Chicago, PNB Publ, 1991, p 87-88.

FELBAMATE IN LENNOX-GASTAUT SYNDROME

The Felbamate Study Group report results in 73 patients ages 4 to 36 years with the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, using a double-blind, placebo-