

**Sleep problems associated with epilepsy in AS** may be related to the severity of seizures and the use of anticonvulsant medication. In 290 individuals with AS, decreased nightly hours of sleep, and a difficulty initiating sleep were significantly correlated with epilepsy. (Conant KD, Thibert RL, Thiele EA. Epilepsy and the sleep-wake patterns found in Angelman syndrome. **Epilepsia** Nov 2009;50(11):2497-2500).

**Genetic testing in AS demonstrates a molecular mechanism** causing lack of expression of the UBE3A gene with abnormalities of chromosome 15, inherited from the mother. (Dan B. Angelman syndrome: Current understanding and research prospects. **Epilepsia** Nov 2009;50(11):2331-2339). Three characteristic EEG patterns are described: A. high amplitude delta with spikes anteriorly without clinical correlation; B. diffuse theta not associated with drowsiness; and C. high amplitude delta mixed with spikes in posterior regions on eye closure. Boyd SG and associates described the EEG features in early diagnosis of AS. (**Eur J Pediatr** 1988;147:508-513).

## **LANGUAGE DISORDERS**

### **LANGUAGE AND READING DISORDERS IN EPILEPSY**

The severity and range of linguistic impairments in youths with epilepsy were studied at UCLA, Los Angeles, State Fullerton University, and UC at Irvine, California. Tests of language, intelligence, achievement, and psychiatric interviews were administered to 182 youths with epilepsy, ages 6.3-8.1, 9.1-11.7, and 12.0-15.2 years, and to 102 normal children. Parents provided demographic, seizure-related and behavioral information. Language scores 1 SD below average were significantly more frequent in epilepsy subjects than in controls. Intermediate and adolescent epilepsy groups had significantly lower mean language scores compared to controls. The older group had more language impairment. Longer duration of epilepsy, absence epilepsy, psychiatric diagnosis, and socioeconomic status were associated with linguistic deficits in the young group. Prolonged seizures, lower Performance IQ and minority status predicted low language scores in the intermediate age epilepsy group. Poor seizure control, decreased Performance IQ, and lower socioeconomic status correlated with language impairment in the adolescent group. Linguistic and reading deficits were significantly related in each epilepsy group. (Caplan R, Siddarth P, Vona P, et al. Language in pediatric epilepsy. **Epilepsia** Nov 2009;50(11):2397-2407). (Respond: Rochelle Caplan MD, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, 760 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90024. E-mail: [rcaplan@ucla.edu](mailto:rcaplan@ucla.edu)).

COMMENT. Linguistic and reading impairment in pediatric and adolescent epilepsy increases with age, and predictors of impairment vary with each age group. Language assessment and intervention are important in children with epilepsy.