

Our proposal we hope to present at NDTA in May:

ADVERSE COGNITIVE AND MOTOR EFFECTS INDUCED BY ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS (AEDS) IN CHILDREN AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

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- 1) **Objective:** Outline the cognitive and neuro-motor effects induced by antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) and discuss implications for pediatric therapy.
- 2) **Description:** Many children with epilepsy already experiencing speech difficulties secondary to their seizures are also on multiple AEDs per day. Amid the dearth of literature per treating the neurogenic challenges secondary to seizures, the adverse motor effects of AEDs are better documented. This display discusses therapeutic implications of the cognitive and motor difficulties present in many children with epilepsy. These challenges may exist both secondary to their seizures as well as to their AEDs. Difficulties with motor planning, attention, body awareness, sensory regulation, executive organizational functioning, social-pragmatic skills, multi-tasking, completion of tasks, receptive and expressive language, visio-spatial awareness, and even low body tone are all real challenges that some children with epilepsy experience.
- 3) **Conclusion/Ramifications:** Cognitive and neuromotor disturbances secondary to pediatric epilepsy constitute a striking percentage of speech-language pathologies. Although epilepsy is the fourth most common neurogenic difficulty, preceded only by migraine, stroke, and Alzheimer's Disease (Epilepsy Foundation), speech-language pathologists receive minimal if any training on treating children with epilepsy. Research for epilepsy is grossly underfunded in general – and even more so in the therapeutic world – leaving very little support for evidence-based practices in treating this population. This display aims to increase awareness of the clinical implications of the cognitive and motor disturbances induced by antiepileptic drugs, such that more clinicians can be better prepared to treat children with epilepsy.