

DEVELOPMENTAL AND EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHIES – DEFINITION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CARE

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Disclosure
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- None

Learning Objectives

- Understand the definition of a child with developmental and epileptic encephalopathy (DEE)
- Understand which patients may be most at risk of having DEE
- Understand the variances in the management of patients with DEE and the cognitive outcome expectations

Key messages

- A developmental and epileptic encephalopathy occurs when there is a combination of pre-existing developmental impairment and epileptic activity which independently affect the neurocognitive and behavioral function
- Many DEEs are association gene mutations and have onset in infancy or early childhood.
- Early targeted intervention with treatment for people with DEE can improve seizure control and potentially cognitive outcomes.
- Intervention should be balanced according to control of epileptic seizure activity versus limitation of unacceptable adverse effects
- Underlying etiology is a major aspect to subsequent cognitive outcome.
- Improved seizure control for people with predominantly non-progressive brain state (e.g. cerebral palsy) may not necessarily alter the behavioral or cognitive outcomes and in this setting aggressive ASM intervention should be avoided.

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