

Editorial

Foreword

Charuta Joshi*

University of Iowa, Hospitals and Clinics Section of Pediatric Neurology, Iowa City, IA, USA

Received 28 February 2014

Revised 3 January 2014

Accepted 28 February 2014

This special issue of pediatric epilepsy is devoted to “new therapies in pediatric epilepsy”.

Several distinguished authors have given their experiences and have reviewed the current literature on a variety of topics. We initially start with thinking about treatable metabolic encephalopathies in the neonate by Dr. Andrade. Then we look at the newest drugs on the horizon for treatment of pediatric epilepsy by Dr. Kohrman’s group. For the reader only interested in non “tablet” therapy, an inside look from a dietician’s; nurse’s perspective is provided on the ketogenic diet. This article deals with the real and practical questions that a parent/ doctor may have about the day to day working of the ketogenic diet.

Dr. Matsumoto reviews deep brain stimulation and responsive stimulation for treatment of epilepsy. She has put together a list of pediatric patients (whose data was reliably available) in the recent years who have

undergone deep brain stimulation. Dr. Nickels from the Mayo clinic reviews a devastating condition: febrile infection related epilepsy syndrome, called FIRES in school aged children) as well as hemiplegia hemiconvulsions syndrome and the latest research on these topics. We then turn towards surgical topics and end with three very timely and important reviews on corpus callosotomy to delineate the epileptogenic zone, new treatments of hypothalamic hamartomas and lastly stereo electroencephalography in the investigation of the epileptogenic zone. We finally end with a review about the medical use of cannabinoids in epilepsy—currently a very controversial topic in the United States and elsewhere in the world due to many misunderstandings about the use of derivatives from the cannabis plant.

Clearly, years to come will provide the neurologist with better tools in their armamentarium to treat medically intractable epilepsy.

*Address for correspondence: Dr. Charuta Joshi, University of Iowa, Hospitals and Clinics, Section of Pediatric Neurology, Iowa City, IA, 52242, USA. Tel.: +1 319 356 1851; Fax: +1 319 384 8818; E-mail: charuta-joshi@uiowa.edu.