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Accident risk in patients with epilepsy in Birjand city

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Background: Epilepsy has impacts on various aspects of social life in patients with epilepsy (PWE). One of these aspects is driving and accident risk. The purpose of this study is to compare the risk of accident in PWE with epilepsy-free patients.

Method: This was a cross-sectional case control study with interviews. A questionnaire was used to interview patients.

Results: Both groups were composed of 335 patients (total of 670 patients). 53.3% of epileptic patients had history of car accident in last two years and mentioned epilepsy as cause of that. 56.2% of patients with history of car accident had seizure attack during driving.

Conclusion: Epilepsy and epileptic-seizure was the most important factor determining the occurrence of accidents in PWE.

Keywords: seizure, epilepsy, accidents, seizure-related injury.

Marital status of people with epilepsy in Birjand

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Background: Epilepsy has impacts on various aspects of social life in patients with epilepsy (PWE). PWE are less likely to marry and more likely to divorce in comparison with general population. In present study marital status of PWE in Birjand city in the east of Iran was evaluated.

Method: Marital status of 670 patients in a cross-sectional case control study were assessed by using a questionnaire. Epilepsy in participants (335 cases) was confirmed by at least two neurologists.

Results: 388 (57.91%) of patients were married and 282 (42.09%) of patients were divorced. Among epileptic participants, there were 101 (30.1%) married and 234 (69.9%) divorced patients. This study showed that divorce in PWE is higher than patients without epilepsy (234, 69.85% divorced cases in PWE vs. 48, 14.32% divorced cases in control group; $P < 0.05$); Divorce history in female patients were significantly higher than males (179, 76.5% vs. 55, 23.5%; $P < 0.05$); also history of divorce had no significant differences between several types of epilepsy ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusion: The stigma of epilepsy has impacts on PWE marital status. Seizure control in epileptic patients, early treatment and family counseling can help in marital status in those with marital conflicts.

Keywords: Epilepsy; Marriage; Divorce; Marital Status



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