

# Psychotic disorders prevalence in a sample of patients with drug-resistant epilepsy

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## Introduction

Drug-resistant epilepsy (DRE) is defined as failure of adequate trials of two tolerated and appropriately chosen antiepileptic drug schedules to achieve sustained seizure freedom [1] and affects approximately 30% of patients with epilepsy [2]. The prevalence rate of psychosis in epilepsy is around 7%–8% and in patients with treatment intractable epilepsy it ranges from 0 to 16% [3]. Many aspects of the relationship between psychosis and epilepsy are still unknown [4].

## Aim

To describe the prevalence of psychotic events of a sample of patients with DRE included during a 9-year-period in a clinical protocol for assessment of candidates for neurosurgical treatment. As a secondary objective, we investigated a possible relationship between the localization of the epileptogenic zone (EZ) (temporal versus extratemporal lobe epilepsy) and psychotic disorder.

## Material and methods

Cross-sectional, observational and descriptive study. Our consultation-liaison psychiatry (CLP) service assessed 453 candidates to neurosurgical treatment attended in the Epilepsy Unit of the University Clinical Hospital of Barcelona between 2008 and 2016.

The following variables were analyzed: age, sex, localization of EZ, presence of axis I psychotic disorder applying the Spanish version of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID-I) and the presence of interictal psychotic disorder measured by Blumer D questionnaire [5].

All statistical procedures were carried out using *IBM SPSS Statistics 23*. To compare the differences between the localization of EZ and the presence of axis I psychotic disorder and interictal psychotic disorder we used chi-square test.

## Results

On average, the mean age of the 453 patients was  $36.9 \pm 12.3$  years. A slight majority of patients were women (56.7%). An axis I psychotic disorder measures by SCID I was present in 3,7 % of the sample and 2,1% were diagnosed of interictal psychotic disorder. No statistically significant association was found between the localization of EZ and psychotic comorbidity.

## Conclusions

Although psychotic disorder is relatively infrequent in epileptic patients it has a great impact on quality of life and it is important to diagnose and treat it. In our study, prevalence of psychotic disorder is according with previous literature, slightly in the lower limit [3]. In accordance with our results, previous research has not found an association between the localization of EZ and the prevalence of psychotic disorder [6]. Consultation-liaison psychiatry services are essential to improve the management of these patients.

## References

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### DISCLOSURE:

The authors have no conflicts of interest or financial disclosures to report.

