

[Acta Neurol Scand.](#) 2005 Dec;112(6):370-4.

## **Prognosis of epilepsy in a community-based study: 8 years of follow-up in an Argentine community.**

[Kochen S](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Melcon MO](#).

### **Author information**

- <sup>1</sup>Epilepsy Center, Hosp.R.Mejia School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires, CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina. skochen@mail.retina.ar

### **Abstract**

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

To assess the prognosis of epilepsy, the possibility of achieving remission of seizures, in patients who were identified in a population-based study carried out in Junín, a city of about 70,000 inhabitants in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. On January 1, 1991 (prevalence day), 106 people had epilepsy, including 64 (60%) with the condition active.

#### **METHODS:**

Eight years later, we revisited the patients identified in the prevalence study. We analyzed risk factors in relation to remission of seizures. We also confirmed the specific cause of death.

#### **RESULTS:**

Ninety-six patients were revisited (10 were completely lost to follow-up). We divided them into two groups: the group in terminal remission (defined as a seizure-free period that extended from prevalence day until the visit day in 1998) which included 64 people (66.7%), and the group of those who continued to have seizures which included 32 (33.3%) patients, of whom eight (25%) died. The overall standardized mortality ratio was 2.45; the rate was two and a half times that of the general national population.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The better prognosis was observed in the group with generalized idiopathic epilepsy syndrome. Patients with epilepsy secondary to underlying structural causes had the worst prognosis, with higher mortality.

PMID:

16281918

[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]