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Psychogenic non-epileptic seizures. Differential diagnosis with epilepsy, clinical presentation and therapeutic approach.

[Article in Spanish]

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Abstract

The current term psychogenic non-epileptic seizures were coined by contemporary neurologists and epileptologists, since the implementation of Video electroencephalogram, considered today the gold standard diagnostic tool. Patients with psychogenic non-epileptic seizures comprise a heterogeneous group from the psychiatric point of view. The diagnosis that describes the psychogenic non-epileptic seizures is "conversion disorder", often associated with dissociative disorder. These disorders are frequently co-morbid with depression, anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder. Furthermore, usually coexist with personality disorders, especially borderline personality disorder, although dependence personality disorder has also been described. A history of trauma is very important in the pathogenesis and development of psychogenic non-epileptic seizures. The symptoms "core" of the psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (conversion and dissociation), some co-morbidities and personality disorders are treated with psychotherapy, while psychotropic drugs are used for co-morbidities such as depression and posttraumatic stress disorder.