

Sayeed Ahmad

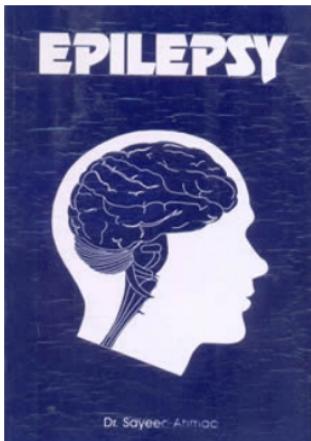
Epilepsy

Reading excerpt

Epilepsy

of Sayeed Ahmad

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1. Medical Aspects

Medical

Ordinarily epilepsy is considered as a condition wherein there are violent convulsions in the body. This is not always so All movements are not epileptic and in certain types of epilepsy there may be no movement at all.

If a patient develops an attack, observe the details. Do not get panicky. What are the types of movements? Where do they start? How do they spread? What happens to the eyes? Are they rolled up or are the eyelids closed? Is there froth? Did the patient pass urine or stools during an attack? Pinch the nose tight for full 30-40 seconds and observe the reaction. How long do the convulsions or unconsciousness last? how is he (or she) on recovering consciousness?

There are extremely important data which help the doctor to diagnose not only whether it is epilepsy at all but also, if it is so, its type. The single most important aid in the diagnosis of epilepsy and its type is an accurate description. Nearly 15% of* cases diagnosed as epilepsy do not suffer from it and this state of affairs is because of poor history. Imitate the attack if you can, but do it accurately.

Epilepsy

It is completely wrong to say that epilepsy is a mental illness. It is almost always due to structural disease in the brain. The commonest such structural abnormality is a scar formed at or after birth or during childhood with resultant epileptic attacks years later. Other causes include tumours, head injury, infections, diseases of blood vessels etc. In 85% of patients the intellect remains normal. However, when the underlying structural disease is very extensive generally starting at or after birth during childhood, there may be associated mental retardation (MR). This is seen in 15% of all epilepsies. Thus both epilepsy and mental backwardness are due to some other common cause and it is seldom epilepsy by itself which leads to mental dulling. Excessive doses of drugs and too many restrictions can cause mental and emotional dulling and these should be avoided. Likewise unrecognized small attacks, especially absence or complex partial seizures, can be mistaken for mental dullness.

Epilepsy is thus a symptom like headache, stomachache or fever.

To repeat epilepsy is just a symptom, like fever and associated with an electrical disturbance in the brain. There are different types of fever and from different causes e.g. malaria, pneumonia, typhoid,

CONVULSIONS: Absin., acet-ac, aeon., aesc, aeth., agar., alum., ambr., am-c, ant-c, *ant-t.*, *apis.*, *aran.*, *arg-n.*, *am.*, **ARS.**, *asaf.*, **ART-V.**, aster., ATRO., *aur.*, *bar-c*, *bar-m.*, **BELL.**, *bry.*, **BUFO.**, *cad.*, **CALC.**, *carb-s.*, *camph.*, *cann-in.*, *canns.*, *canth.*, *carb-ac.*, **CAUST.**, **CHAM.**, *chen.*, *chin.*, **CIC.**, **CINA.**, *clem.*, *coca.*, *cocc.*, *coc-c.*, *coff.*, *colch.*, *coloc.*, *con.*, *cop.*, *croc.*, *crot-c.*, *crot-h.*, *cub.*, **CUPR.**, *cupr-ar.*, *cur.*, *dig.*, *dulc.*, *eupi.*, *ferr.*, *ferr-ar.*, **HYOS.**, *ign.*, *lod.*, *ip.*, *kali-br.*, *kali-c.*, *kali-chl.*, *kali-i.*, **kalm.**, *lach.*, *laur.*, **LOB.**, *lye*, *lyss.*, *mag-c.*, *mag-m.*, *mag-p.*, *mane.*, *meli.*, *meph.*, *mere.*, *merc-c.*, *mosch.*, *mur-ac.*, *nat-m.*, *nat-s.*, *nit-ac.*, **NUX-M.**, **NUX-V.**, *oen.*, *olnd.*, **OP.**, *ox-ac.*, *petr.*, *phos.*, *phyt.*, *plat.*, **PLB.**, *psor.*, *puis.*, *ran-s.*, *rhus-t.*, *rob.*, *ruta.*, *sabad.*, *samb.*, *sec.*, *sep.*, *sil.*, *sin-n.*, *sol-n.*, *spig.*, *squil.*, *stann.*, *staph.*, **STRAM.**, *stront.*, **STRY.**, *sidph.*, *tab.*, *tax.*, *ter.*, *tliea.*, *valer.*, *verat.*, *verat-v.*, *vip.*, *zinc.*, *ziz.*

- right side of body: **Bell.**, *caust.*, **LYC.**, *nux-v.*

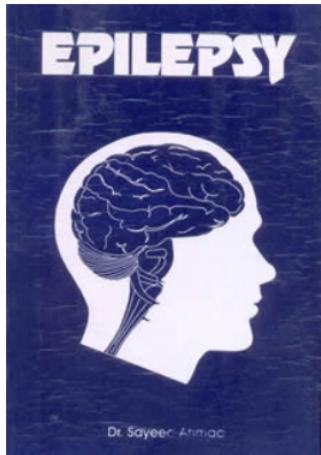
- left paralyzed: **Art v.**
- to left: *Vise.*
- left side of body: *Calc-p.*, *cupr.*, *elaps.*, **graph.**, *ip.*, *nat-m.*, *plb.*, *sulph.*

Epilepsy

- morning: Arg-n., art-v., calc, caust., cocc, crot-h., kalm., lye, mag-p, nux-v., plat, sec, sep., sulph., tab.
- 4a.m. to 4 p.m. *calc.*
- afternoon: Arg-m., stann.
- evening: Alum., **CALC**, caust., croc, gels., laur., merc-n., op., stann. Stram., sulph.
- - Open air: caust.
- - 8 p.m.: *Ars.*
- - 9 p.m.: *lyss.*
- night: Arg-n., ars., art-v., aur., bufo., calc, calc-ar., caust., cic, cina., cupr., dig., hyos., kali-c, lye, mere, nit-ac, nux-v., oenna., OP., plb., sec, SIL., stram., sulph., zinc.
- - midnight: Bufo., cina., *cocc*, sant, zinc.
- - - after: Nit.ac

Addison's disease, in: Calc.

- alternating with excitement of mind: **STRAM.**
 - - with rage: **STRAM.**
 - - with unconsciousness: Agar., Aur.
 - anger, after: Bufo., **CHAM.**, Cina, *kali-br.*, Zyss., NUX-V., Op., plat., sulph.
 - apoplectic: **Bell.**, crot-h., cupr., Lach., nux-v., stram



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