

# DEPRESSION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY - SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE

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## Introduction and Objectives

- Epilepsy is often associated with comorbid psychiatric illnesses and the most frequent of these, in around 40% of patients, is major depressive disorder
- Compared to general population epidemiological studies show a consistent increased prevalence of depression in epilepsy
- The main aim of this study was to evaluate the relationship between epilepsy, antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) and depression**
- We also wanted to evaluate possible association between depressive symptoms in patients with epilepsy with the quality of life (QoL)

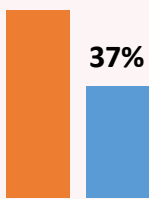
## Material & Methods

- This was a **prospective cross-sectional study** that was carried out at the tertiary teaching hospital (University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia, Referral Centre of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia for Epilepsy) with Ethics committee approval
- Depressive symptoms were evaluated using Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM- D17). Quality of life was assessed using Quality of life in epilepsy-31 inventory (QOLIE-31)
- Statistical analysis was done using statistical software IBM Corp. Released 2011. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 20.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp, using t-test, one way ANOVA, post hoc Scheffe test, Bonferroni, Tukey test, and Pearson correlation coefficient

## Results

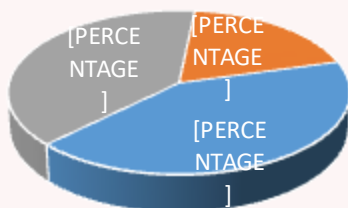
- 108 patients (63% females, 37% males; mean age  $39.54 \pm 15.91$  years, range 18-80 years) with epilepsy were included
- 14.8% of patients had focal, 35.2% generalised and 40.7% both types of epilepsy
- Majority of patients (65.74%) were on two or more AEDs and quarter was on monotherapy (25%); 19% of patients were on older, 42% on newer and 39% on both AEDs
- Mean total score on HAM- D17 was  $9.94 \pm 8.18$  (0-33, men - mean total score  $10.16 \pm 8.85$ , women - mean total score  $9.81 \pm 7.84$ )
- There were no significant differences on HAM- D17 regarding gender and age
- We didn't find statistically significant differences regarding AEDs (older vs. newer AEDs, or both types AEDs) and results on HAM-D17, nor between the type of epilepsy and results on HAM - D17
- We found strong negative correlation between the higher QoL and HAM - D17 ( $p=0.000$ )

63%



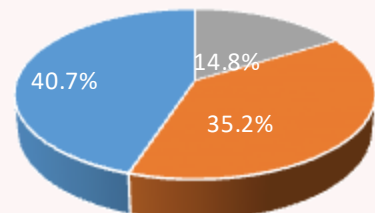
Female Male

### Antiepileptic drugs



Older Newer Both

### Type of epileptic seizures



Focal Generalised Both types

## Conclusion

- Results of this study evaluating depressive symptoms in patients with epilepsy demonstrate that our patients mainly experience mild depressive symptoms, with no significant differences on HAM- D17 regarding gender and age
- Patients with epilepsy with less pronounced depressive symptoms were found to have higher QoL
- We did not find statistically significant differences regarding the type of epilepsy and results on HAM - D17, nor between the AEDs (older vs. newer AEDs, or both types AEDs) and results on HAM- D17

References: 1. Elger CE, Johnston SA, Hoppe C. Seizure. 2017;44:184-93.; 2. Gill SJ, Lukmanji S, Fiest KM, et al. Epilepsia. 2017;58(5):695-705.; 3. Hamilton M. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 1960;23:56-62.; 4. Lusic I, Dzamonja G, Titlic M, et al. Coll Antropol. 2011;35(4):1177-84.; 5. Mula M, Sander JW. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2019;20(1):41-5.