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Electroclinical features of seizures associated with autoimmune encephalitis

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Highlights

- Autoimmune seizures frequently involve the medial temporal and perisylvian regions.
- Electroclinical features are dynamic and evolve over the course of the disease.
- Refractory and frequent seizures are seen in the acute phase.
- In patients who continue to experience seizures, no latent period is seen.
- Electroclinical features involving temporal lobes predict persistence of seizures.

Abstract

Purpose: We sought to characterize the electroclinical features of seizures associated with autoimmune encephalitis and their relevance to outcome.

Methods: 19 patients with seizures and autoimmune encephalitis were identified from a database of 100 patients (2008-2017) with autoimmune neurological disorders. Clinical and electroclinical characteristics were collected. Persistent seizures at last follow-up were then correlated with electroclinical features.

Results: Status epilepticus (53%) and early intractability to AEDs (median time to second AED 9.5 days) marked the onset of refractory seizures (median number of AEDs 3). Seizure semiology (abdominal (16%), psychic (42%), olfactory (6%) auras), interictal temporal epileptiform