

Epilepsy Care- Awareness, Cost and Availability of Antiepileptic Drugs

Dear Editor

I read an editorial on interesting aspect of cheap and easy availability of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) for the betterment of care of epilepsy patients by Keni and Thomas.^[1] The epilepsy can be controlled in approximately 70% of the patient but in our country the 70% of epilepsy patients remain uncontrolled or country accounts for about 20% of uncontrolled or partially controlled epilepsy,^[2] it will have an immense impact on large number of patients (approximately 10 million) along with positive financial impact with a geographical disparities^[3]. As per the World Health Organization the Southeast Asian Region (SEARO) no patient with epilepsy (PWE) be left untreated or uncontrolled of seizures.^[4]

The biggest factor for all these healthcare implications is poverty or lack of adequate funds with the government along with lack of awareness. In the study by Singh *et al.*^[5] the authors have found major problems of availability, affordability, and other aspects for the management of PWE.

Way back to 1931 (as per documentation) till now, the debate for the drug or treatment of the diseases that it should be in favor of the patients rather than the drug-producing unit or the treating institute or the clinician.^[6] In some states like Rajasthan, there is free drug supply schemes including AEDs along with many other essential and common important drugs along with public awareness on print and electronic media and of course the patients by themselves in turn.^[7] It helps the patients get free medicines, investigations, and other supportive therapies as this aspect has been studied in stroke patients recently.^[8]

The implementation of such schemes at the national or rather at international levels can help a lot to the PWEs. Various neurological and epilepsy societies/bodies may mobilize the governments or nongovernmental organizations in this direction.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Khichar Shubhakaran

Department of Neurology, Dr. S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

Address for correspondence: Dr. Khichar Shubhakaran, House No. E-22/13, Umair Hospital Campus, GEETA BHAWAN, Road, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. - 342003
E-mail: drkhicharsk@gmail.com

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