

Berg AT, Shinnar S, Levy SR, Testa FM. **Status epilepticus in children with newly diagnosed epilepsy.** Ann Neurol 1999; 45:618-623.

Status epilepticus (SE) constitutes a neurological emergency and may be of prognostic value in individuals with epilepsy. Little is known about the associations between other prognostic factors in epilepsy and the occurrence of SE. The following study examines associations between clinical characteristics of children with newly diagnosed epilepsy and the occurrence of SE when epilepsy is first diagnosed. Children were recruited prospectively from the practices of physicians throughout Connecticut. Information was collected via standardized interviews with parents and review of pertinent records. Analyses were performed for any SE, unprovoked SE only, and previous provoked SE. Of 613 children, 56 (9.1%) had one or more episodes of SE by the time the diagnosis of epilepsy was established. Factors correlated with SE during an unprovoked seizure were partial seizures and previous craniotomy. For SE during a provoked seizure, correlates were primarily young age at onset of epilepsy and nonidiopathic epilepsy syndrome. To date, subsequent SE has occurred in 4.3% of children without and in 19.6% of those with SE at diagnosis. By the time epilepsy is first diagnosed in children, SE has already occurred in a substantial minority. It is correlated with specific clinical characteristics in the children, which differ depending on whether the SE was provoked or unprovoked. SE has a high risk of recurring.