Tuberous Sclerosis Complex: A retrospective clinical review with a focus on epilepsy

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Introduction

Epilepsy in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) usually begins early and is often difficult to control.

TSC can cause a Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathy. Early onset seizures and poor seizure control is thought to be associated with poor outcomes[1] .

Objectives

To describe the characteristics of Epilepsy in the TSC patients presenting to the paediatric neurology service of the 2 major academic hospitals in Johannesburg.

Methodology

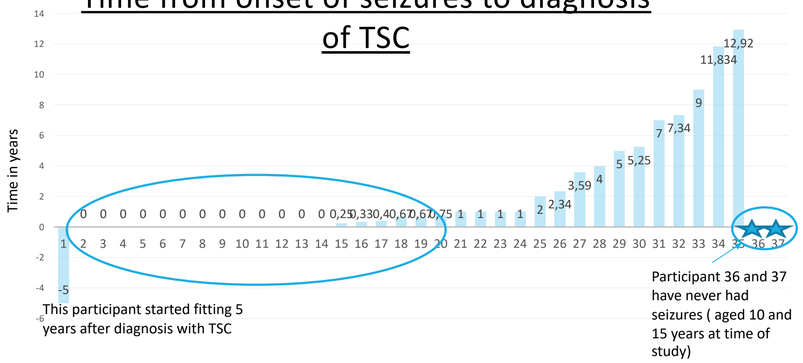
Retrospective file review of patients presenting to the paediatric neurology service at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital from 2000 until 2020.

Results

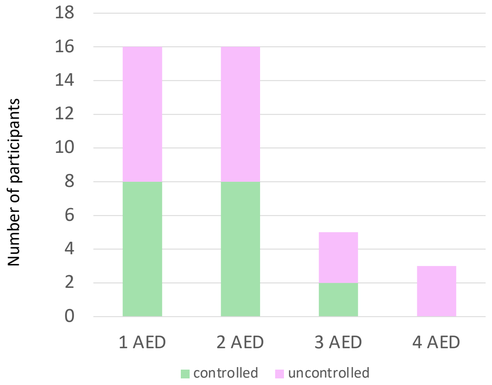
Study population: 37 patients

Average age at presentation: 5y0m. Average age at the time of the study: 10y7m

Time from onset of seizures to diagnosis of TSC

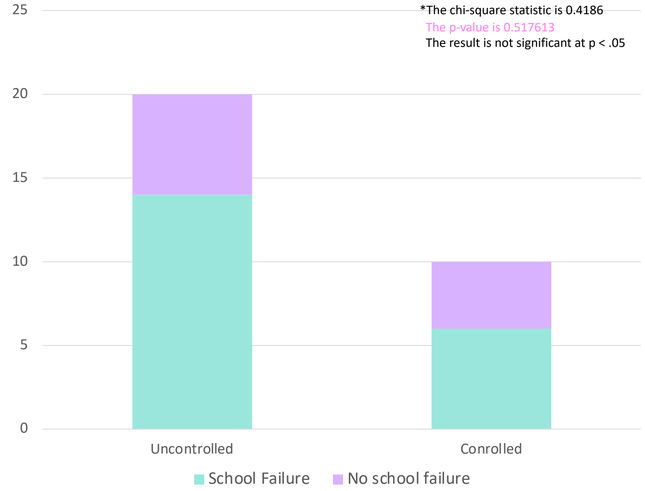


Seizure Control

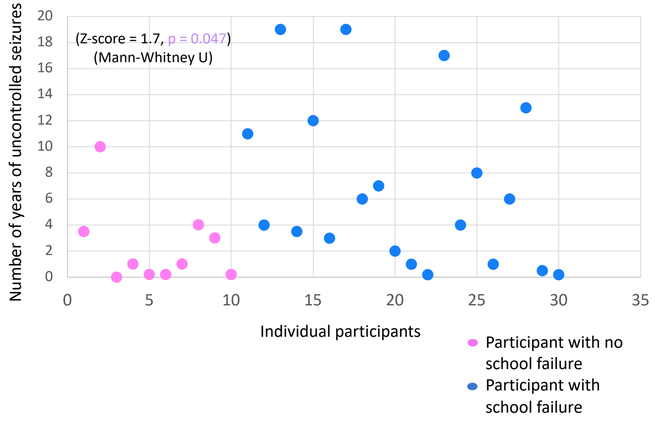


Number of drugs

School Failure and Seizure Control



Years of Uncontrolled Seizures



Conclusion

- The number of patients diagnosed and treated for TSC in Gauteng underrepresent the likely prevalence.
- Our patients are presenting to tertiary services very late compared to both international and local studies [2] - more awareness is needed.
- This results in loss of opportunity for early treatment and control of seizures which impacts on both epileptic and developmental outcomes.
- Most of the Epilepsy in our TSC patients is difficult to control.
- The duration of lack of seizure control correlates with school failure (p =0.047).

References

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2. Kija E, Schlegel B, Samia P, Wessels M, Wilmshurst JM. Tuberous sclerosis complex in the Western Cape,South Africa: The clinical presentation features. S Afr Med J 2017;107(4):295-298.

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