Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of life in childhood epilepsy with lateralized focus

Version: 1 Date: 30 January 2010

Reviewer: Mary Connolly

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory revisions

The subject of quality of life in children with lateralized focus is of great interest to those who care for children with epilepsy. However, the number of subject (31) in this study is very small. The criteria used to lateralize the focus according to the methods section is based on interictal epileptiform discharges. However, in clinical practice individuals with unilateral temporal lobe epilepsy may have bilateral interictal epileptiform discharges and also generalized spike and wave, the latter may be present on a genetic basis. The authors do not indicate if intensive video-EEG monitoring was performed which would confirm lateralization and localization of the ictal onset zone. If data on video-EEG monitoring are available, they should be added. Exclusion of children with structural lesions in the temporal lobes is also difficult to understand as seizures commonly arise in the same temporal lobe. Exclusion of children with bilateral mesial temporal lobe sclerosis would be appropriate. The quality of life tool used was appropriate but the conclusions which the authors draw are highly dependent on correct lateralization and localization of the ictal onset zone.

In conclusion, the number of subjects in the study and the criteria used for lateralization limit the inferences which may be drawn from this study. Study of a larger number of subjects and clear criteria on how the ictal onset zone was determined such as video-EEG data would add greatly to this study.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.