



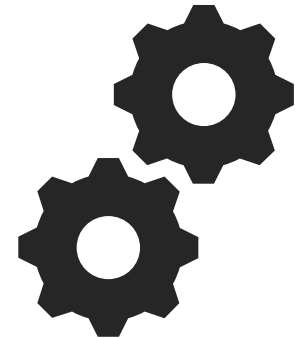
# Epilepsy Syndromes with Onset in Childhood

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Rome, Italy

# Outline

- Historical overview
- Purposes of the ILAE Task Force for Nosology
- Process of defining syndromes
- Definition and Classification of syndromes
- Core criteria and related Delphi process
- Further definitions
- Conclusions



# Historical overview

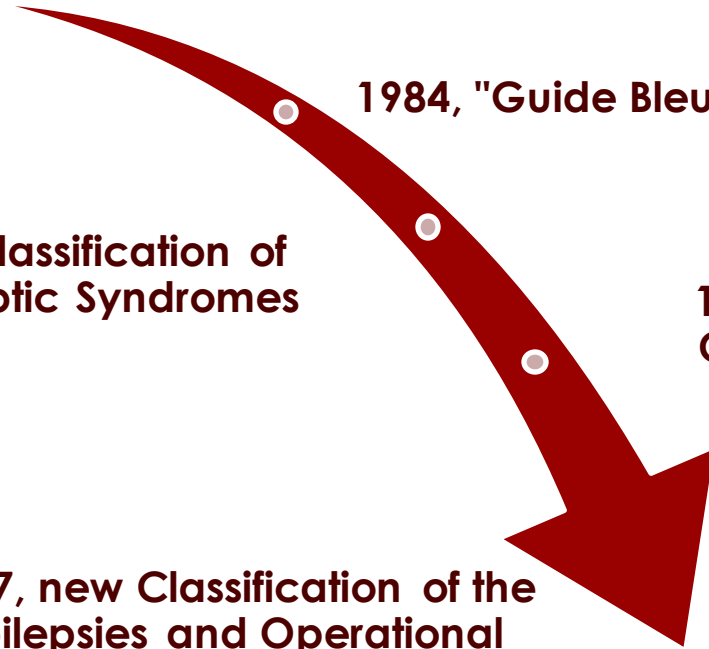
1983, Centre Saint Paul, Marseille: first attempt of epileptic syndromes' classification

1984, "Guide Bleu"

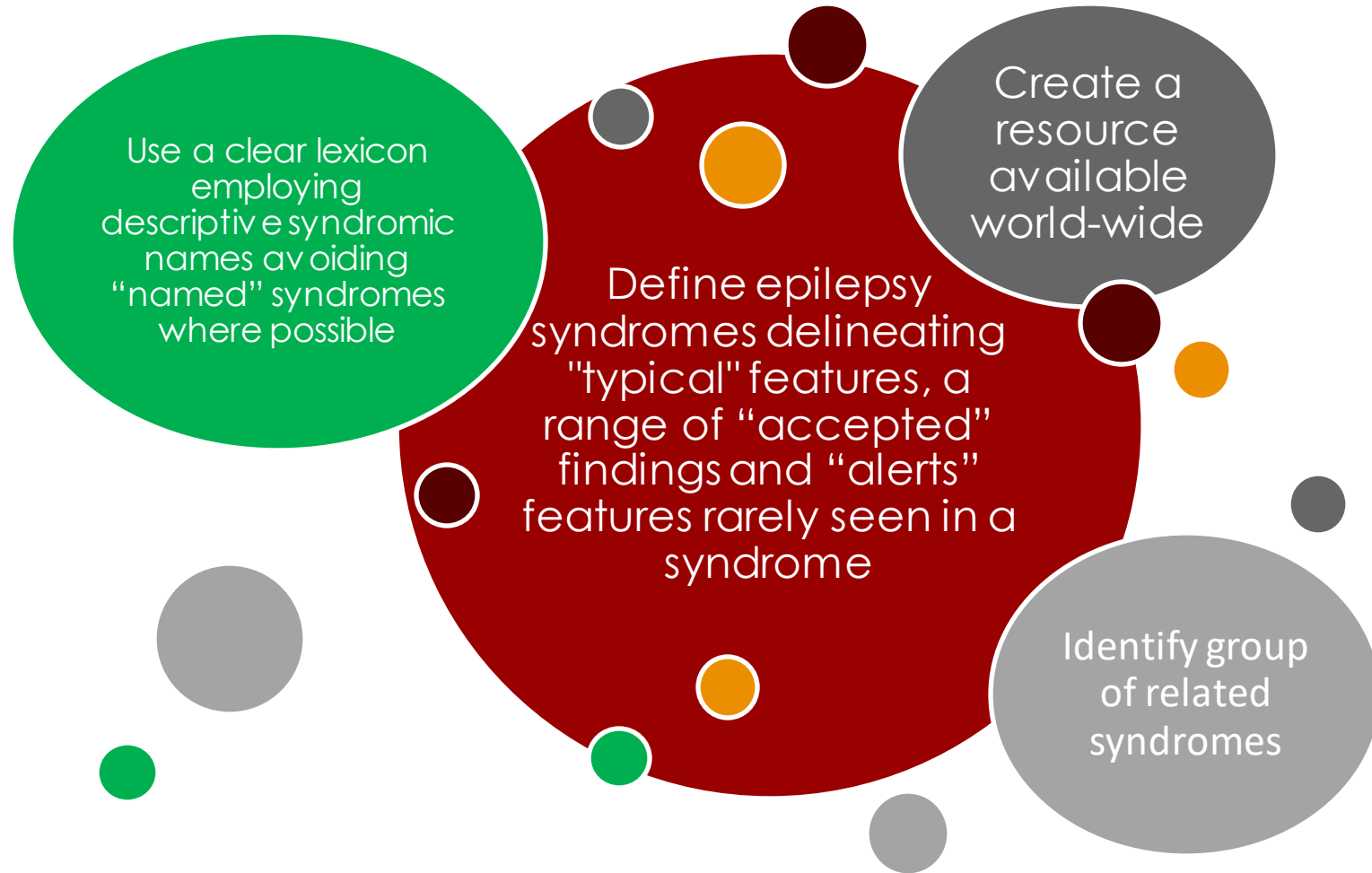
1985, Proposal for Classification of Epilepsies and Epileptic Syndromes

1989, Revised Classification

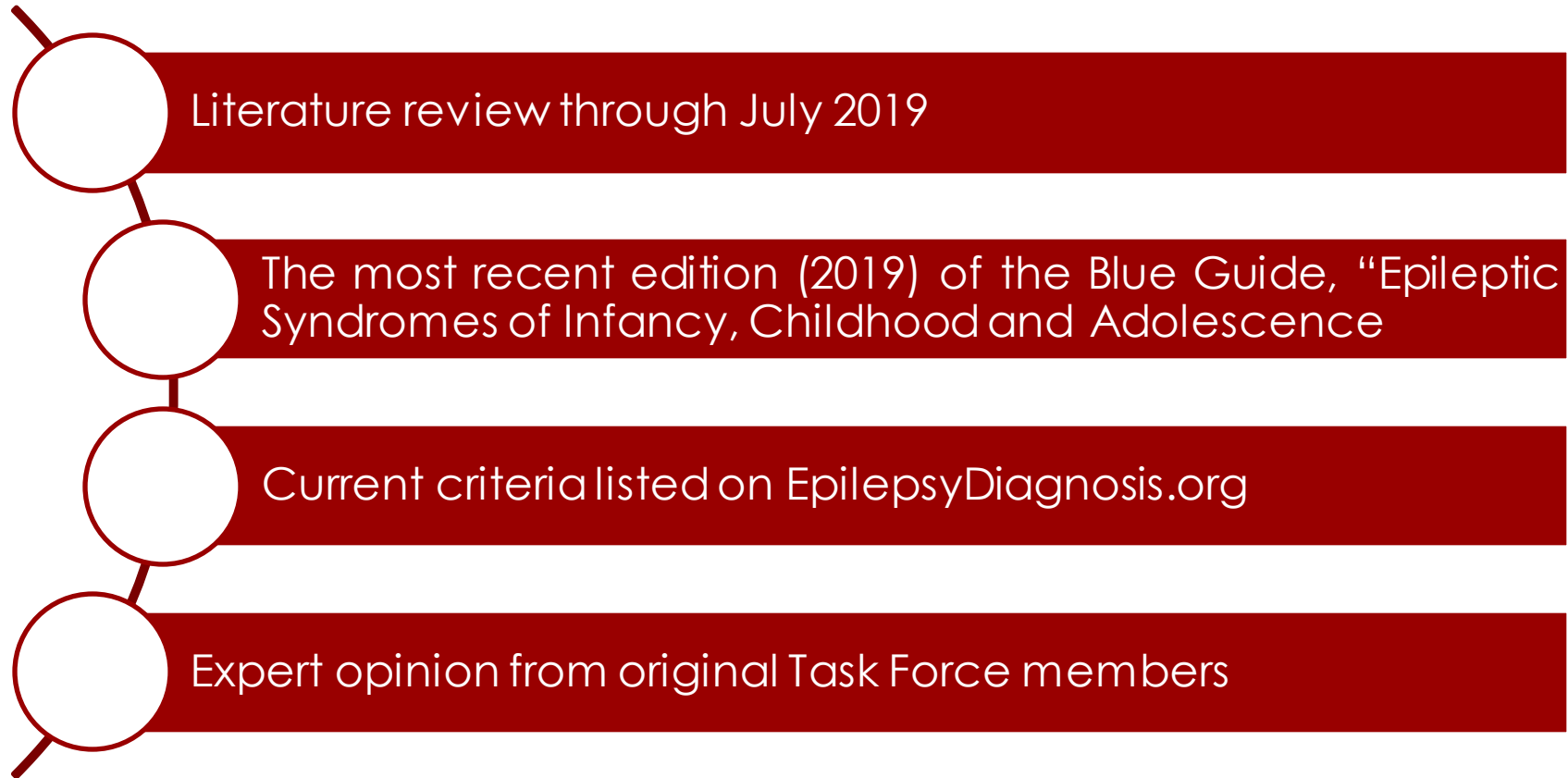
2017, new Classification of the Epilepsies and Operational Classification of Seizure Types



# Purposes of the ILAE Task Force on Nosology



# Process of defining syndromes



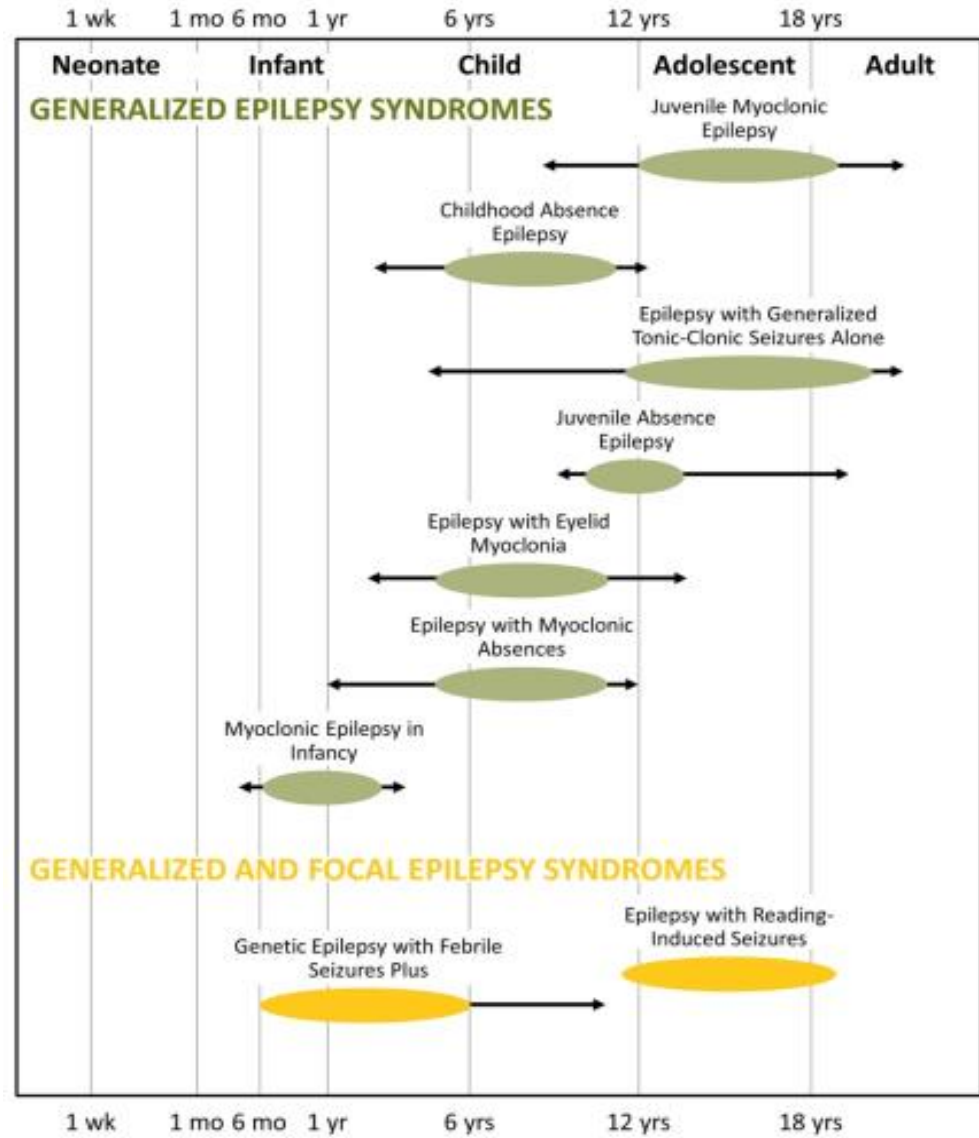
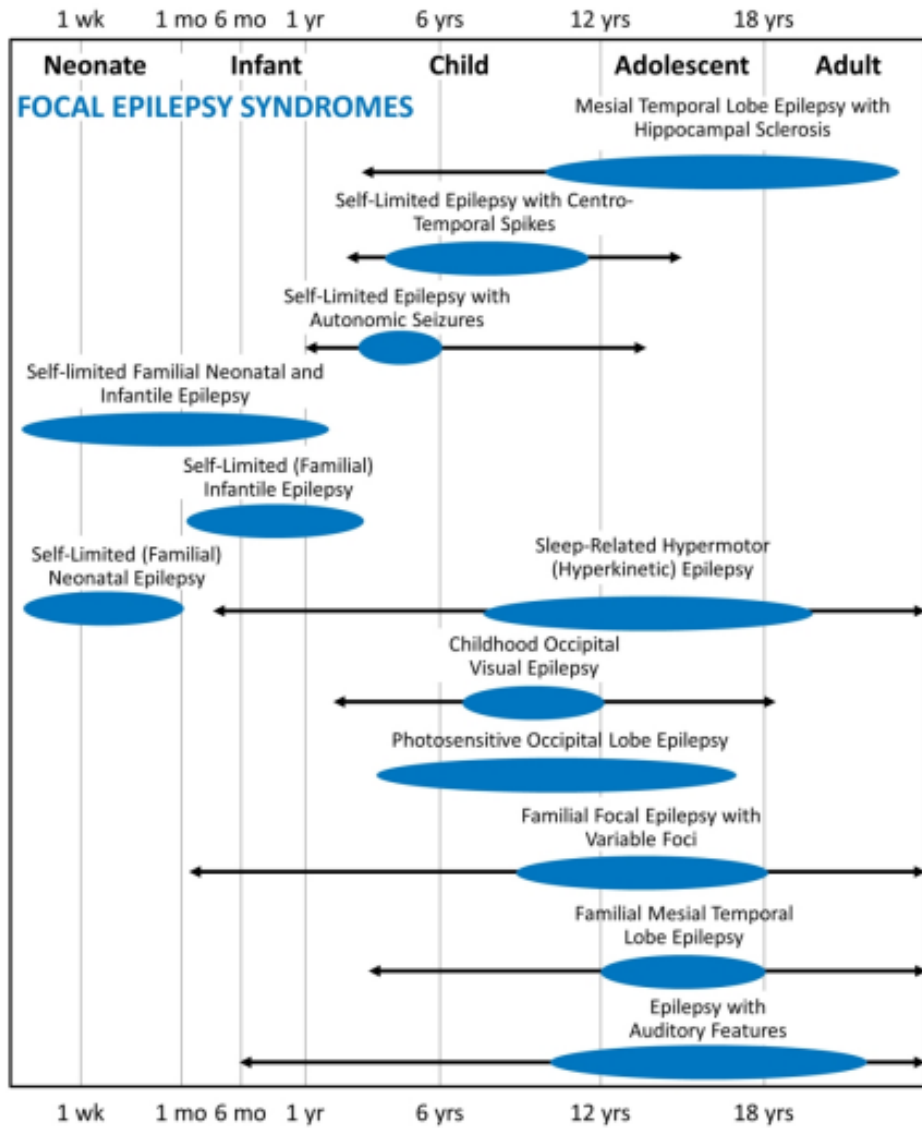
# Definition and Classification

*Epileptic syndrome*: a characteristic cluster of clinical and EEG features, often supported by specific etiological findings (structural, genetic, metabolic, immune and infectious).

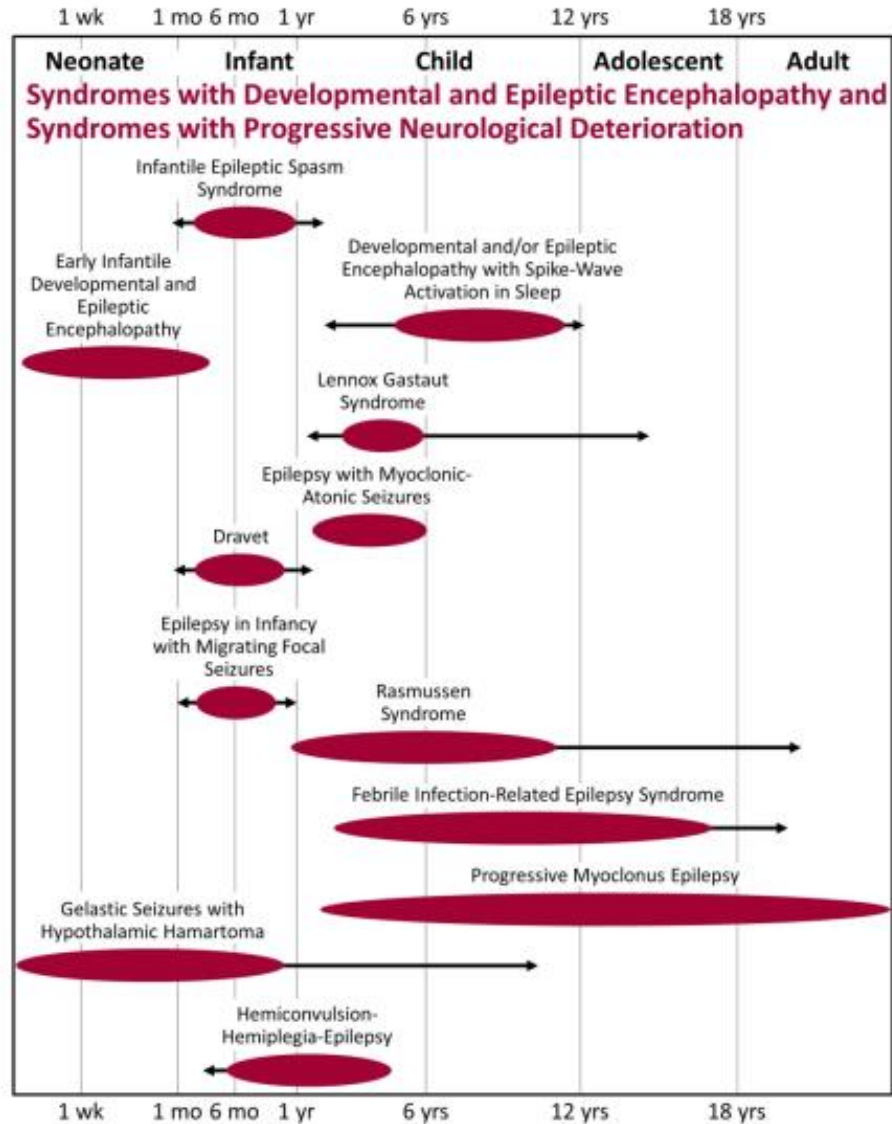
Syndromes are divided based on age at onset and on syndrome type (generalized epilepsy syndromes, focal epilepsy syndromes, focal and generalized epilepsy syndromes and syndromes associated with Developmental and/or Epileptic Encephalopathy (DEE) or Progressive Neurological Deterioration).

## 4 groups:

1. Neonatal and Infantile onset (for the purpose of the proposed classification infancy was defined as the period up to age 24 months)
2. Childhood onset
3. Variable age at onset
4. Idiopathic Generalized Epilepsies.



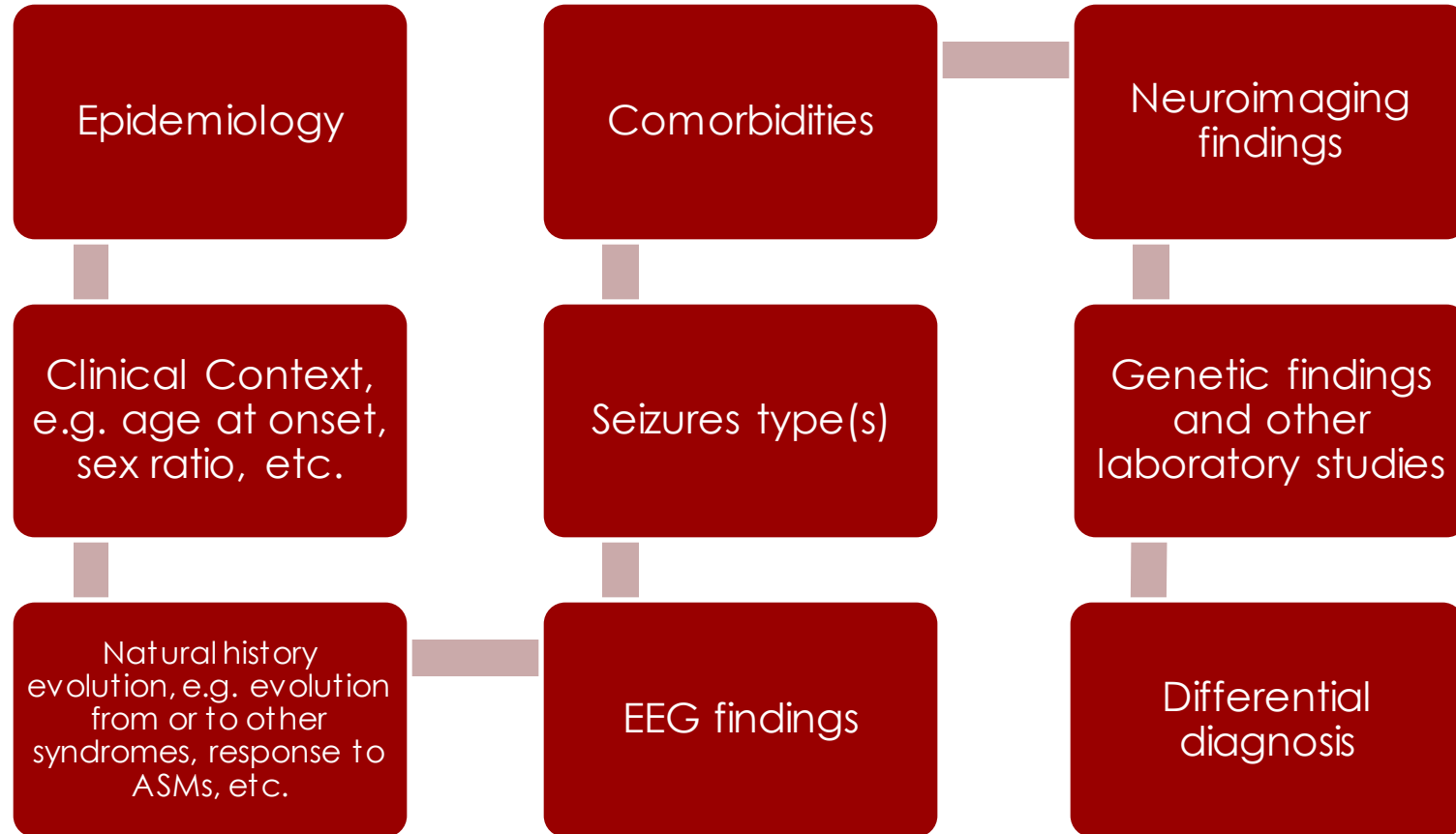
**GENERALIZED AND FOCAL EPILEPSY SYNDROMES**



- DEE: an epilepsy associated with developmental impairment due to either the underlying etiology, the superimposed epileptic activity or both.
- The term DEE is more challenging to apply when epilepsy begins later in life, following a normal development, e.g. in Rasmussen Syndrome.
- Thus, the concepts of **Epilepsy Syndromes with DEE** and **Epilepsy Syndromes with Progressive Neurological Deterioration** to encompass the group of syndromes associated with cognitive impairment with or without other neurological deterioration and recognize that this impairment may be due to the underlying etiology, superimposed epileptic activity, or both.


















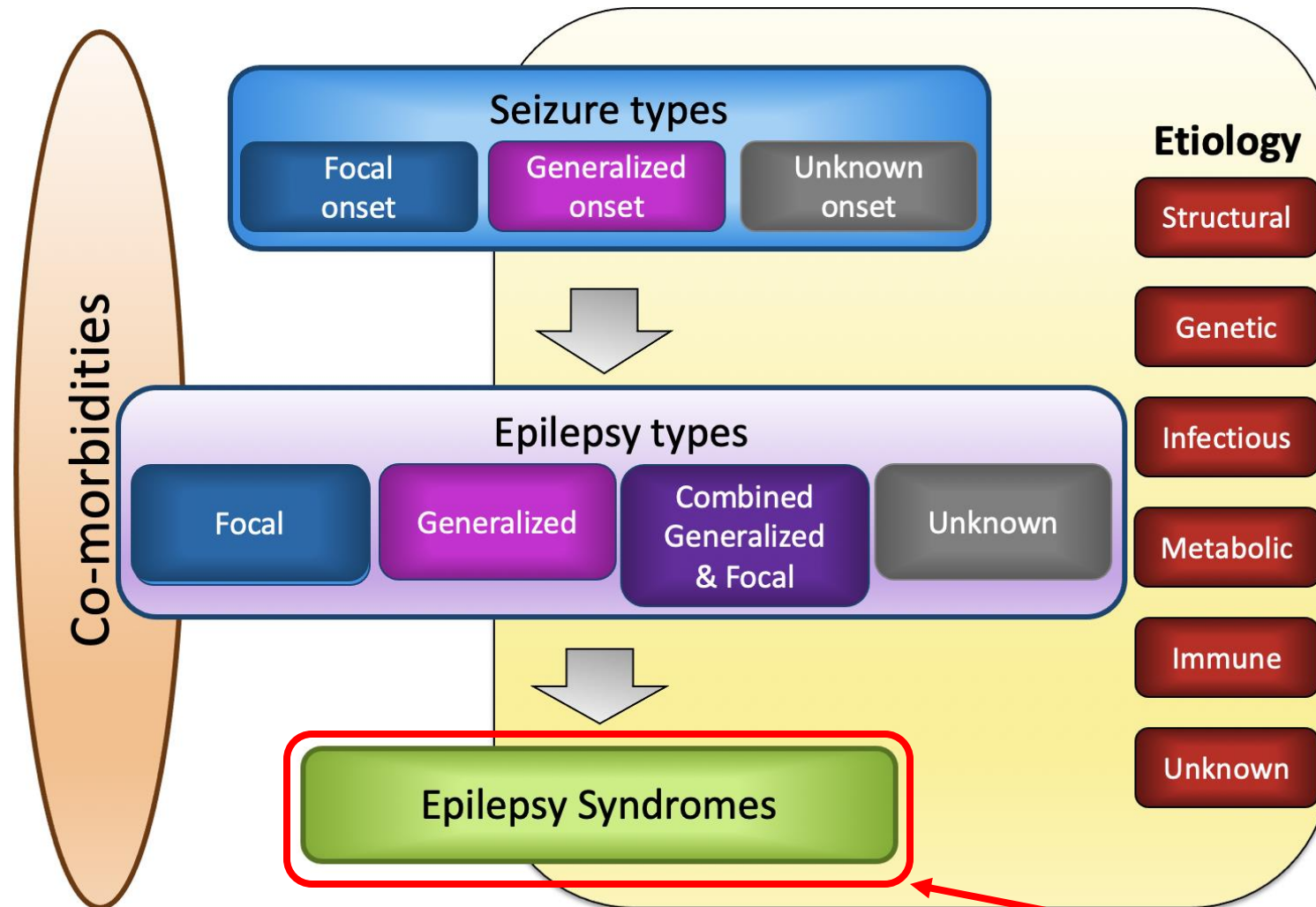
# Template for clinical data for syndromes



**SPECIAL REPORT**

# International League Against Epilepsy classification and definition of epilepsy syndromes with onset in childhood: Position paper by the ILAE Task Force on Nosology and Definitions

Nicola Specchio<sup>1</sup>  | Elaine C. Wirrell<sup>2</sup>  | Ingrid E. Scheffer<sup>3</sup>  | Rima Nabhout<sup>4</sup>  |  
Kate Riney<sup>5,6</sup>  | Pauline Samia<sup>7</sup>  | Marilisa Guerreiro<sup>8</sup> | Sam Gwer<sup>9</sup> |  
Sameer M. Zuberi<sup>10</sup> | Jo M. Wilmshurst<sup>11</sup>  | Elissa Yozawitz<sup>12</sup>  | Ronit Pressler<sup>13</sup>  |  
Edouard Hirsch<sup>14</sup>  | Sam Wiebe<sup>15</sup>  | Helen J. Cross<sup>16</sup>  | Emilio Perucca<sup>17,18</sup>  |  
Solomon L. Moshé<sup>19</sup>  | Paolo Tinuper<sup>20,21</sup> | Stéphane Auvin<sup>22</sup> 



**ILAE classification of the epilepsies: Position paper of the ILAE Commission for Classification and Terminology**

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Ingrid E. Scheffer, <sup>1</sup>Samuel Berkovic, <sup>4</sup>Giuseppe Capovilla, <sup>5</sup>Mary B. Connolly, <sup>6</sup>Jacqueline French, <sup>7</sup>Laura Guilhoto, <sup>8,9</sup>Edouard Hirsch, <sup>10</sup>Satish Jain, <sup>11</sup>Gary W. Mathern, <sup>12</sup>Solomon L. Moshé, <sup>13</sup>Douglas R. Nordli, <sup>14</sup>Emilio Perucca, <sup>15</sup>Torbjörn Tomson, <sup>16</sup>Samuel Wiebe, <sup>17</sup>Yue-Hua Zhang, and <sup>18,19</sup>Sameer M. Zuberi

- Not for all patients
- Syndrome diagnosis
- management
- prognosis

# What's new?

New names for Epilepsy Syndromes with Onset in Childhood  
and new classification

Self-limited focal epilepsies

Generalized Epilepsies

Developmental and/or Epileptic Encephalopathies

**Self-limited focal epilepsies**

- Self-Limited Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes
- Self-Limited Epilepsy with Autonomic Seizures
- Childhood Occipital Visual Epilepsy
- Photosensitive Occipital Lobe Epilepsy

**Generalized Epilepsies**

- Childhood Absence Epilepsy
- Epilepsy with Eyelid Myoclonia
- Epilepsy with Myoclonic Absence

**Developmental and/or Epileptic Encephalopathies**

- Epilepsy with Myoclonic-Atonic Seizures
- Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
- Hemiconvulsion-Hemiplegia-Epilepsy Syndrome
- Febrile Infection-Related Epilepsy Syndrome
- Developmental and/or Epileptic Encephalopathy with Spike-and-Wave Activation in Sleep



# Updated 2022 ILAE guidance

- Epidemiology
- Clinical: age at onset, history, neurological exam
- Natural history: drug responsiveness, likelihood of remission, comorbidities, evolution
- Seizure type(s)
- EEG features: typical findings, if ictal EEG is needed
- Neuroimaging
- Genetics
- Other lab findings, if relevant
- Differential diagnosis



Mandatory features



Exclusionary features

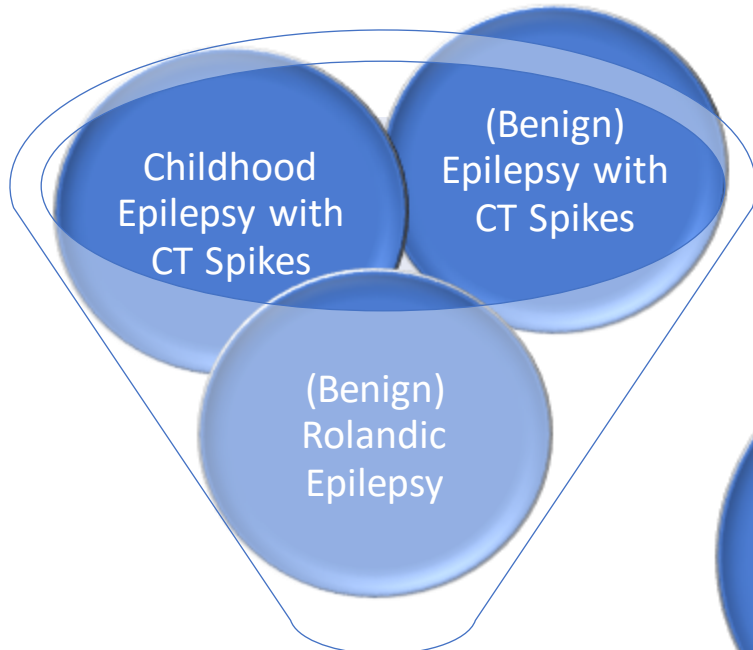


Alerts: atypical features

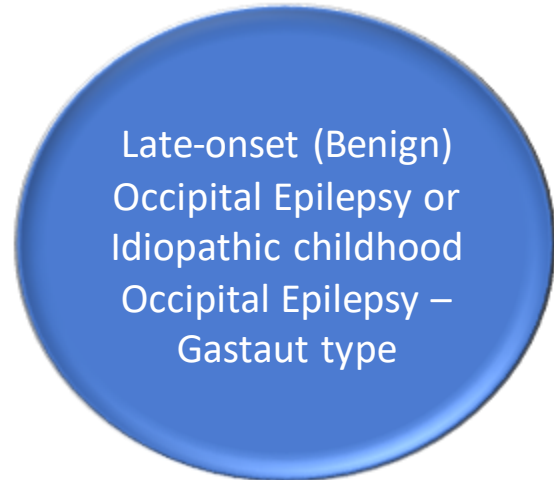


Core diagnostic criteria

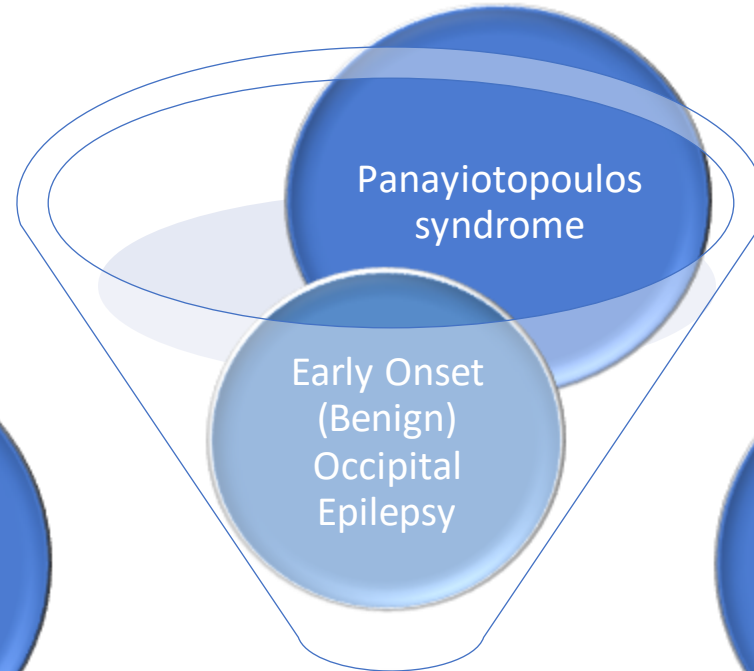
# Self-limited focal epilepsies



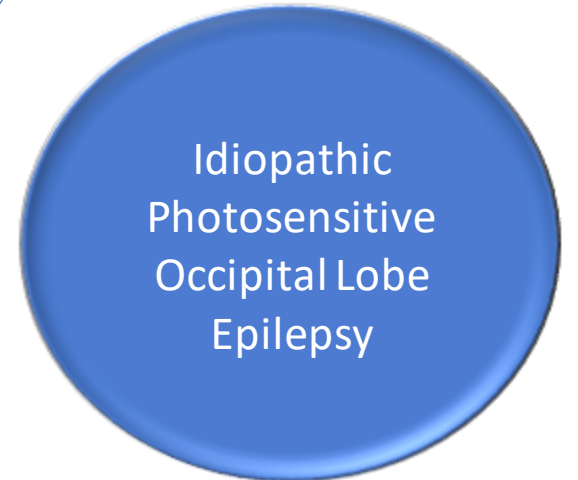
**Self-Limited Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes**



**Childhood Occipital Visual Epilepsy**



**Self-Limited Epilepsy with Autonomic Seizures**



**Photosensitive Occipital Lobe Epilepsy**

# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Centrotemporal  
Spikes  
**SeLECTS**

- Age-dependent
- Normal child - normal intellect, examination
- Classical seizure semiology
- Characteristic EEG features
- MRI: No structural lesion
- Remission in adolescence

Benign Focal Epilepsy of Childhood  
Benign Rolandic Epilepsy  
Benign Epilepsy with Centro-Temporal Spikes



# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Autonomic  
Seizures  
**SeLEAS**

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Centrotemporal  
Spikes  
**SeLECTS**

- Age-dependent
- Normal child - normal intellect, examination
- Classical seizure semiology
- Characteristic EEG features
- Remission in adolescence

Panayiotopoulos syndrome  
Early-onset benign occipital epilepsy

# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Autonomic  
Seizures  
**SeLEAS**

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Centrotemporal  
Spikes  
**SeLECTS**

- Age-dependent
- Normal child - normal intellect, examination
- Classical seizure semiology
- Characteristic EEG features
- Remission in adolescence

Childhood Occipital  
Visual Epilepsy  
**COVE**

Gastaut syndrome  
Late-onset benign occipital epilepsy

# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Autonomic  
Seizures  
**SeLEAS**

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Centrotemporal  
Spikes  
**SeLECTS**

- Age-dependent
- Normal child - normal intellect, examination
- Classical seizure semiology
- Characteristic EEG features
- Remission in adolescence

Childhood Occipital  
Visual Epilepsy  
**COVE**

Photosensitive  
Occipital Lobe  
Epilepsy **POLE**

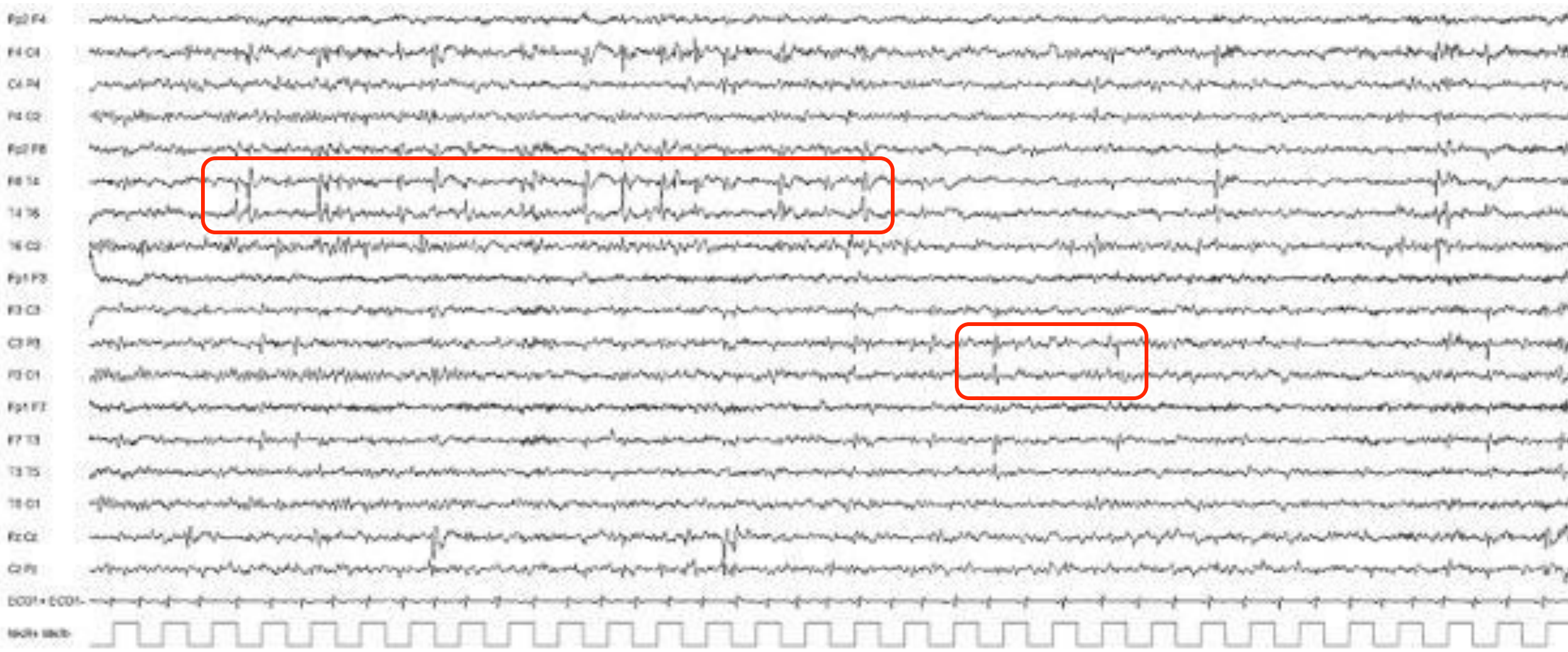
Idiopathic photosensitive  
occipital lobe epilepsy

# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

Self-Limited  
Epilepsy with  
Centrotemporal  
Spikes  
**SeLECTS**

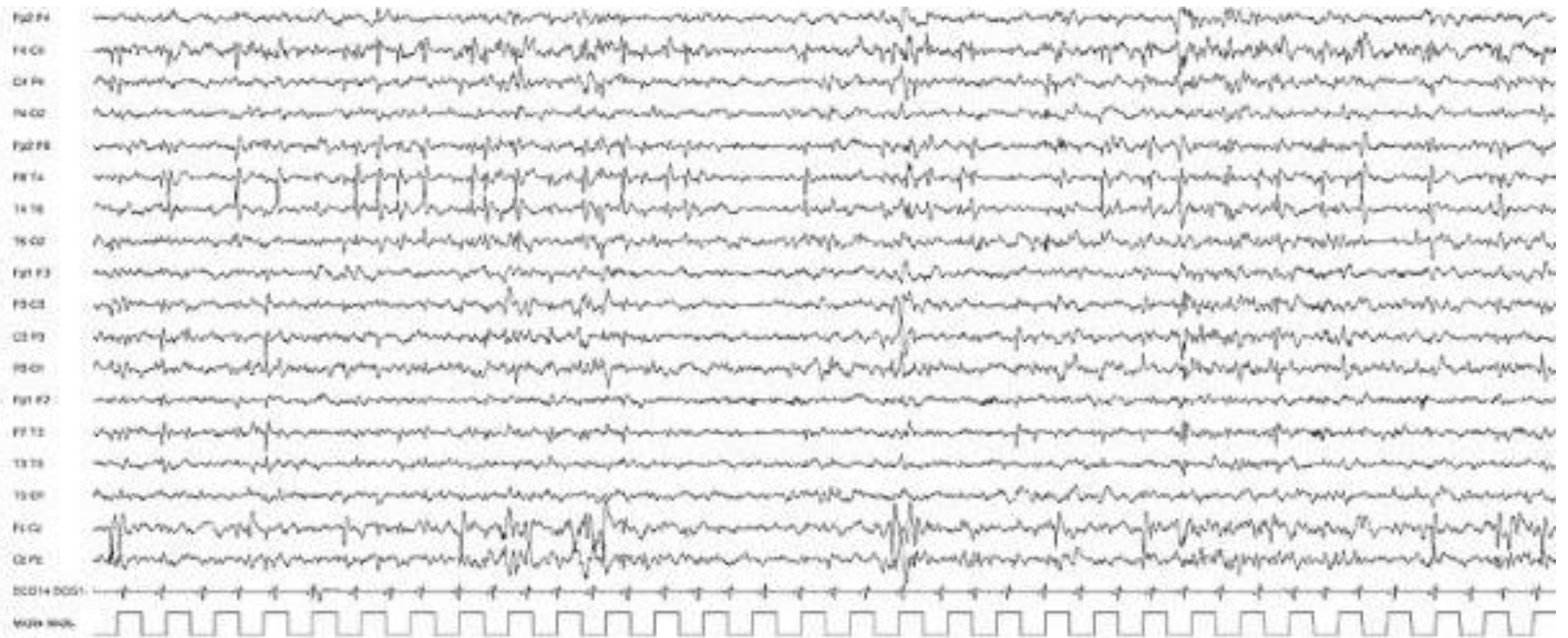
- Onset median 7 yrs (range 4-10 yrs)
- Aura: Buccal paraesthesia
- Hemifacial tonic or clonic features
- Drooling, speech arrest – dysarthria, dysphasia
- Focal to bilateral tonic-clonic (FBTC)
- Within 1-2 hrs of falling asleep or prior to awakening
- Remit mid to late adolescence





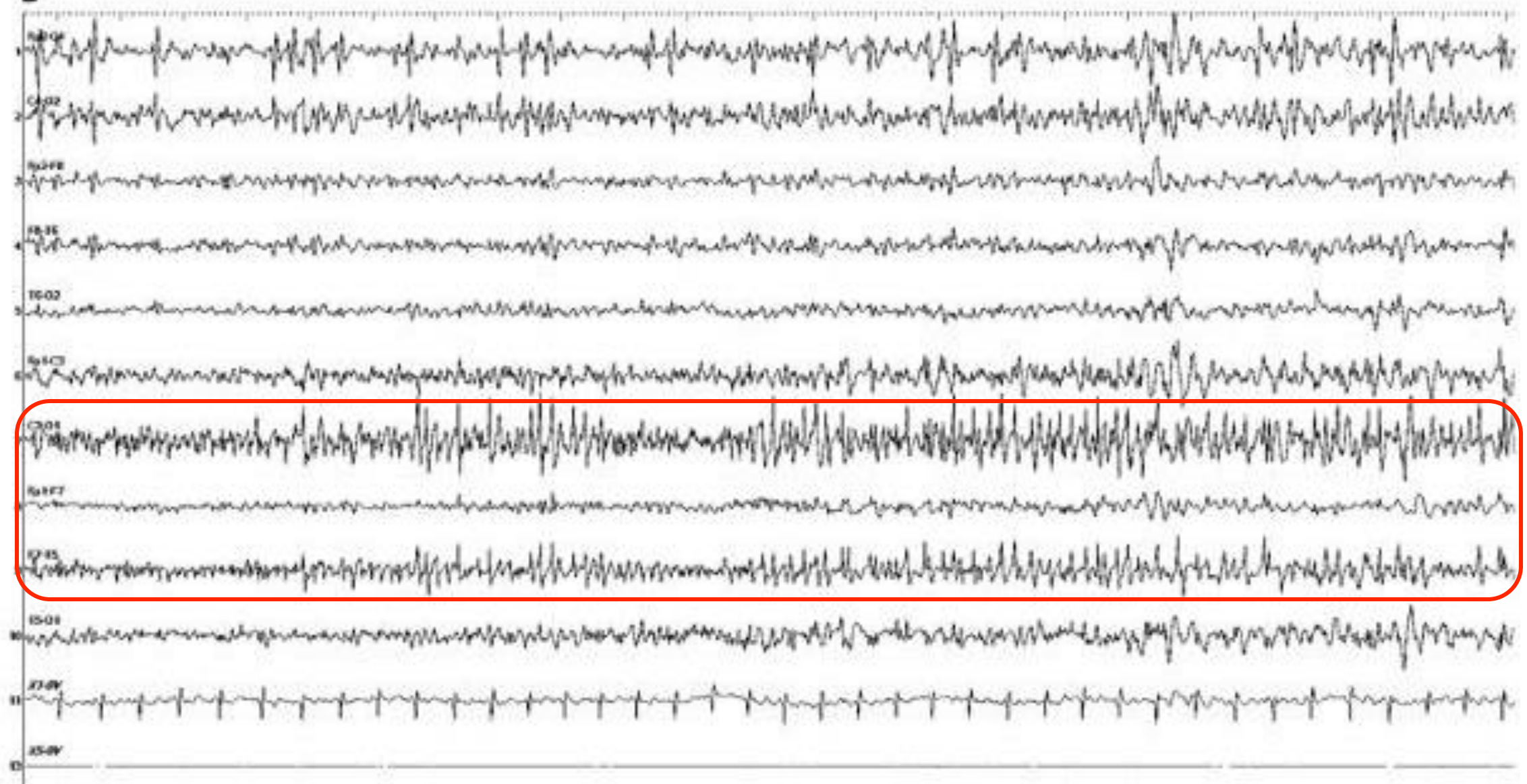
9 yr boy with SeLECTS

Awake EEG: high amplitude right centrotemporal discharges



9 yr boy with SeLECTS

Asleep EEG: increased and higher amplitude discharges



9 yr boy with SeLECTS

Ictal rhythm: L centrotemporal rhythmic spikes  $\uparrow$  amplitude,  $\downarrow$  frequency

# Self-Limited Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes (SeLECTS)



## Mandatory

- **Seizures:** Focal seizures with dysarthria, sialorrhea, dysphasia
- **EEG:** High amplitude, centrotemporal biphasic epileptiform abnormalities
- **Course of illness:** Remission by mid to late adolescence. No developmental regression



## Alerts

- **Seizures:** Focal motor or generalized convulsive status epilepticus >30 min.
- **EEG:** Sustained focal slowing not limited to the postictal phase. Lack of sleep activation of centrotemporal abnormalities
- **Age at onset:** >12 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Moderate to profound intellectual disability
- **Neurological exam:** Hemiparesis or focal neurological findings, other than Todd's paresis



## Exclusionary

- **Seizures:** Generalized tonic-clonic seizures during wakefulness.
- **Age at onset:** <3 years or >14 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Neurocognitive regression with a continuous spike-and-wave pattern in sleep (suggests EE-SWAS)
- **Imaging:** Causal lesion on brain MRI
- **Course of illness:** Neurocognitive regression with a continuous spike-and-wave pattern in sleep suggests evolution to EE-SWAS



# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

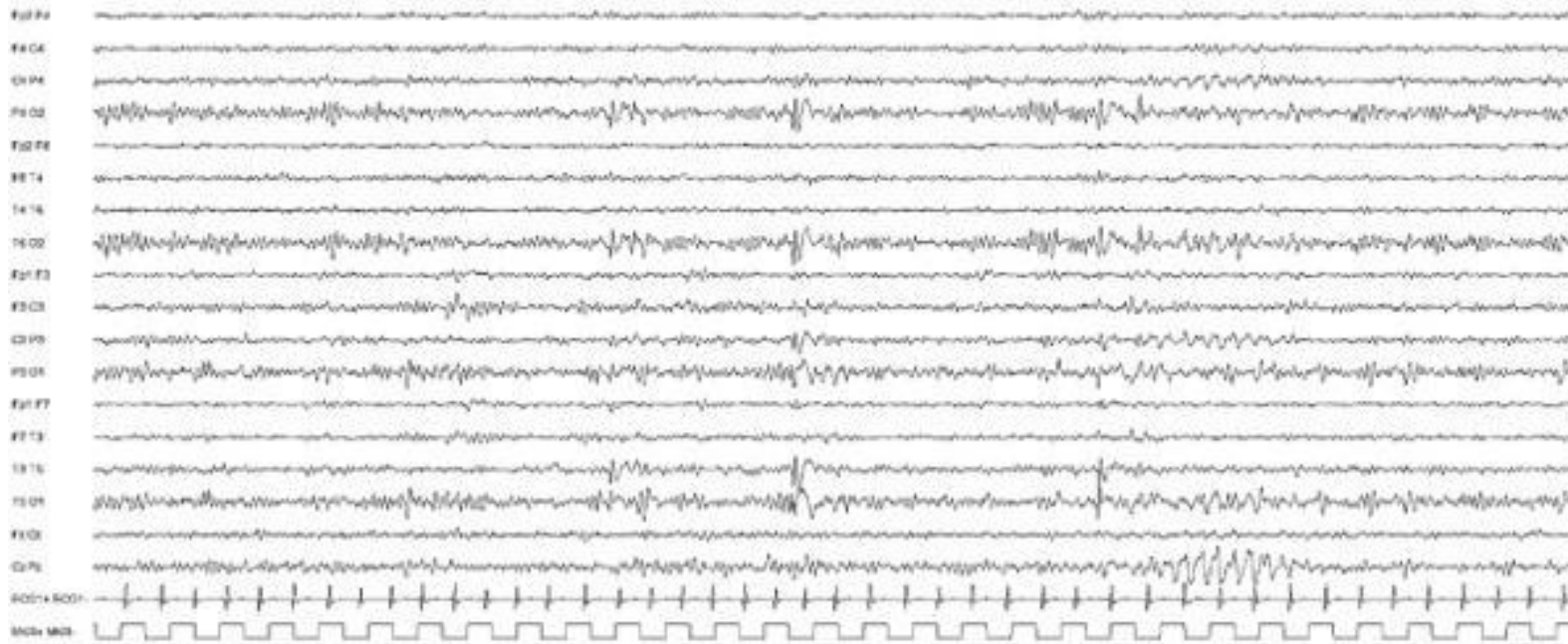
## Self-Limited Epilepsy with Autonomic Seizures **SeLEAS**

- Onset 3-6 y (range 1– 14 y)
- Focal autonomic seizures
  - Prominent vomiting and retching
  - Malaise
  - Pallor or flushing
  - Abdominal pain
  - Cardiorespiratory changes
  - Head and eye deviation
- Remits early – mid adolescence



# SeLEAS

Awake: Rare posterior quadrant spikes



Asleep: Increase in frequency and amplitude of bilateral posterior discharges



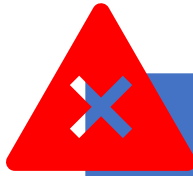
100  $\mu$ V  
1 sec

# Self-Limited Epilepsy with Autonomic Seizures (SeLEAS)



## Mandatory

- **Seizures:** Focal autonomic seizures, with or without impaired awareness. Autonomic symptoms often involve prominent retching and vomiting, but may also include malaise, pallor, flushing, abdominal pain, pupillary or cardiorespiratory changes
- **EEG:** High amplitude, focal or multifocal epileptiform abnormalities which increase in drowsiness and sleep
- **Course of illness:** Remission by early to mid-adolescence. No developmental regression



## Alerts

- **Seizures:** Seizure frequency greater than monthly
- **EEG:** Sustained focal slowing not limited to the postictal phase. Unilateral focal abnormalities in a consistent focal area across serial EEGs
- **Age at onset:** <3 years or >8 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Moderate to profound intellectual disability
- **Neurological exam:** Hemiparesis or focal neurological findings, other than Todd's paresis



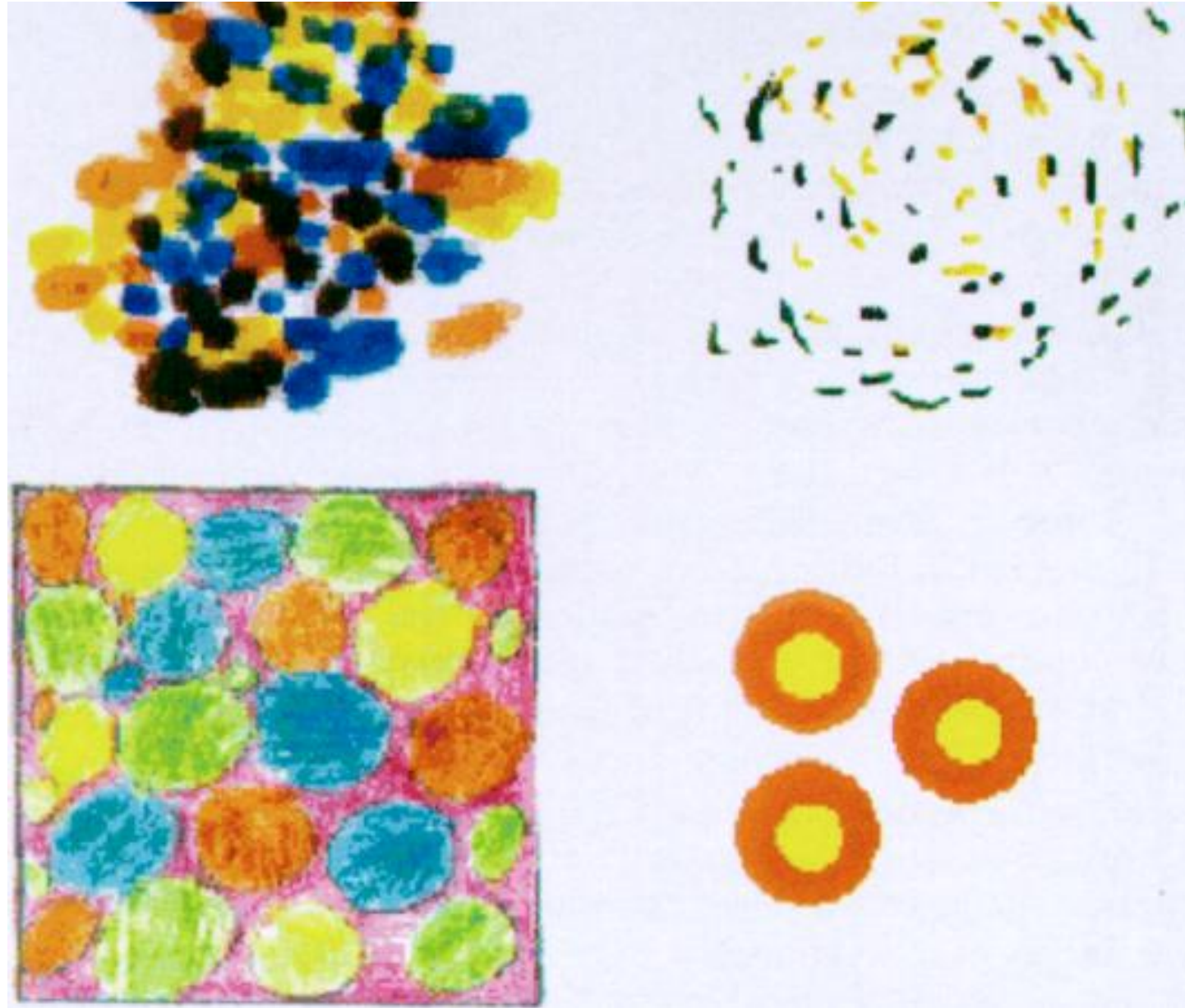
## Exclusionary

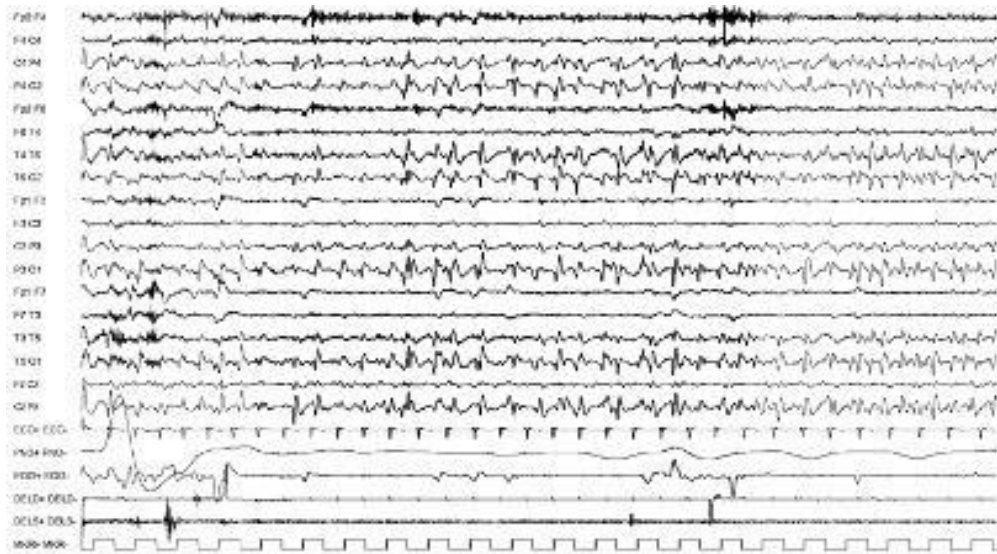
- **Age at onset:** <1 year or >14 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Neurocognitive regression with a continuous spike-and-wave pattern in sleep (suggests EE-SWAS)
- **Imaging:** Causal lesion on brain MRI
- **Course of illness:** Neurocognitive regression with a continuous spike-and-wave pattern in sleep suggests evolution to EE-SWAS

# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

## Childhood Occipital Visual Epilepsy COVE

- Focal sensory visual seizures
  - Elementary visual phenomena
  - Multicoloured circles
  - $\pm$  awareness
  - $\pm$  head and eye deviation
  - Awake

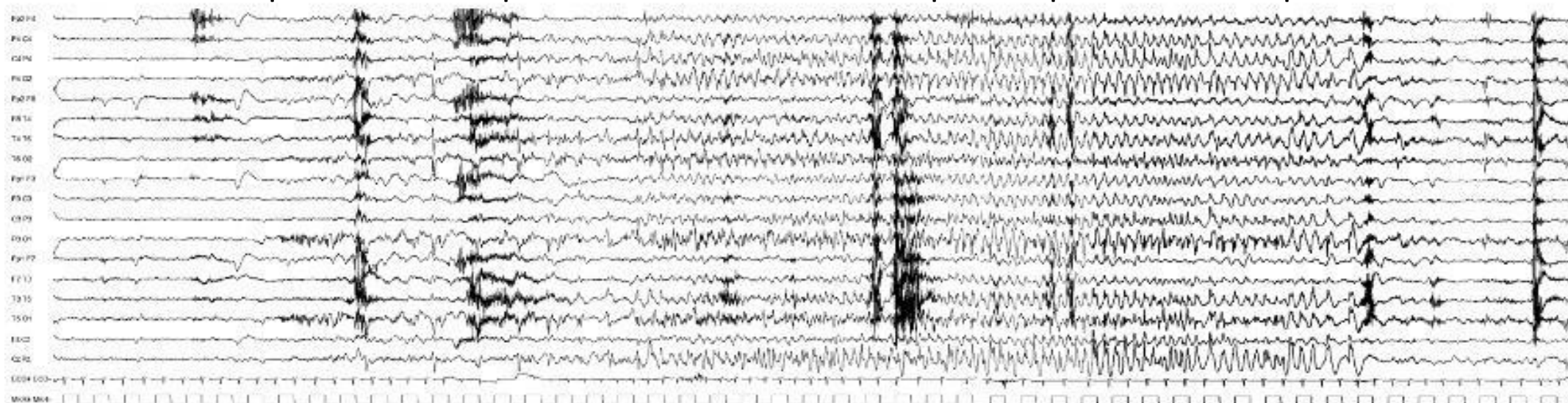




A Awake: posterior spikes



B Sleep: ↑ posterior spikes



c Ictal: bilateral posterior low voltage fast activity  
most prominent posterior regions

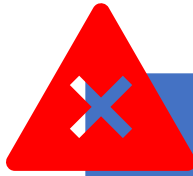
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1 sec

# Childhood Occipital Visual Epilepsy (COVE)



## Mandatory

- **Seizures:** Focal sensory visual seizures with elementary visual phenomena (multi-colored circles), with or without impaired awareness, and with or without motor signs (deviation of the eyes or turning of the head. Seizures arise predominantly or exclusively from wakefulness
- **EEG:** Occipital spikes or spikes-and-wave abnormalities (awake or sleep).



## Alerts

- **Seizures:** Prolonged seizure lasting >15 minutes. GTCS during wakefulness
- **EEG:** Sustained focal slowing not limited to the postictal phase
- **Age at onset:** <6 years >14 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Intellectual disability
- **Neurological exam:** Any significant neurological examination abnormality



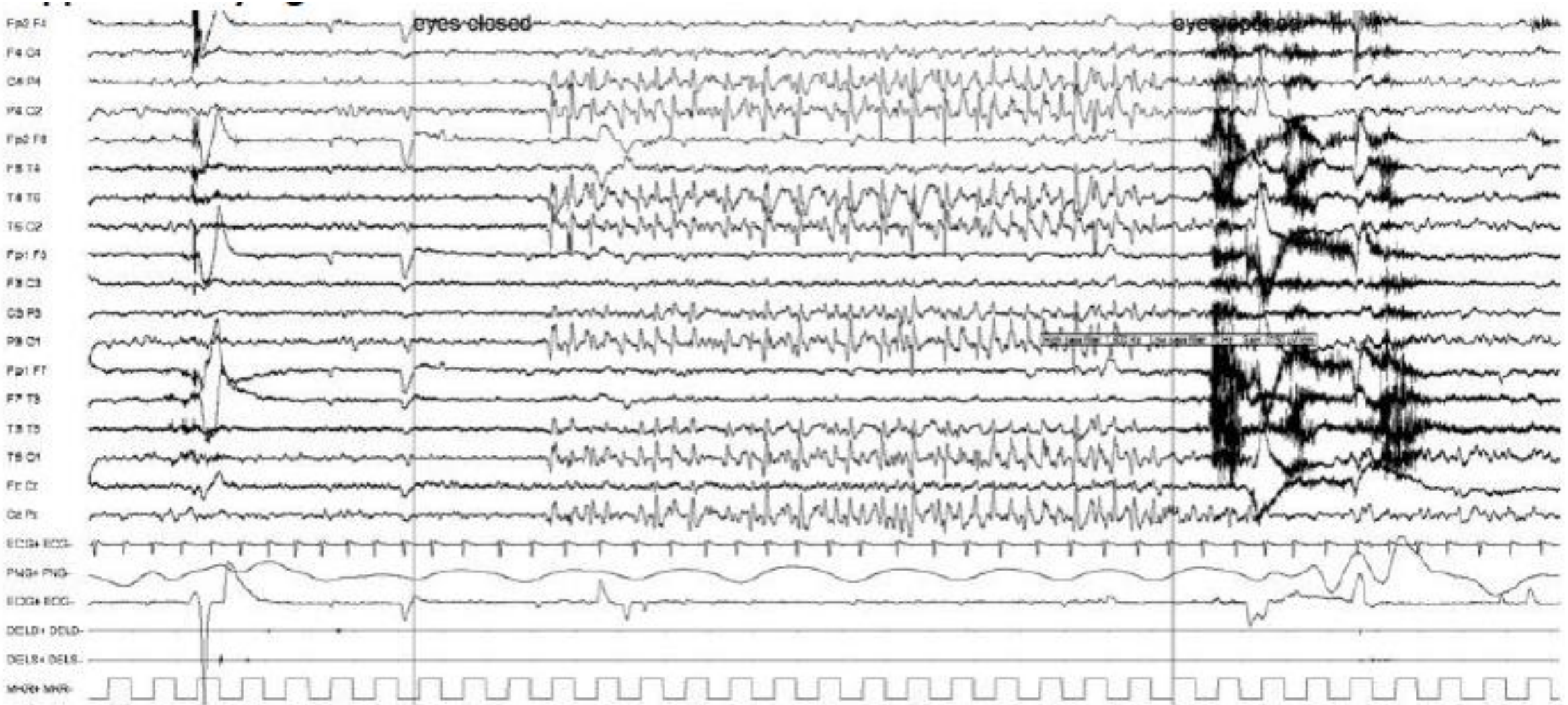
## Exclusionary

- **Seizures:** Drop (tonic or atonic) seizures. Atypical absences. Progressive myoclonus
- **Age at onset:** <1 year or >19 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Neurocognitive regression
- **Neurological exam:** Persistent visual field deficit
- **Imaging:** Causal lesion on brain MRI. Cerebral occipital lobe calcifications
- **Course of illness:** Neurocognitive regression. Development of myoclonic seizures, ataxia, spasticity



Photosensitive  
Occipital Lobe  
Epilepsy  
**POLE**

- Focal sensory visual seizures
  - May evolve to BTCS
- Triggered by photic stimuli
- Conscious head version 'chasing the sun' before loss of awareness
- Head and eye deviation



POLE Interictal: diffuse spike-wave elicited by eye closure  
Discharge stops on eye opening

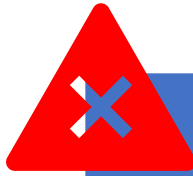


# Photosensitive Occipital Lobe Epilepsy (POLE)



## Mandatory

- **Seizures:** Focal sensory visual seizures (see text), which may evolve to bilateral tonic-clonic seizures. Seizures are triggered by photic stimuli, such as flickering sunlight
- **EEG:** Occipital epileptiform abnormalities facilitated by eye closure and IPS



## Alerts

- **Seizures:** Prolonged seizures lasting >15 minutes
- **EEG:** Sustained focal slowing not limited to the postictal phase. Photoparoxysmal response at slow photic frequency (1-2 Hz) (suggest CLN2 disease)
- **Age at onset:** <4 years >17 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Moderate to profound intellectual disability
- **Neurological exam:** Any significant neurological examination abnormality



## Exclusionary

- **Seizures:** Eyelid myoclonia. Progressive myoclonus
- **Age at onset:** <1 year or >50 years at onset
- **Development at onset:** Neurocognitive regression
- **Neurological exam:** Permanent visual field deficit
- **Imaging:** Causal lesion on brain MRI

# Self-Limited Focal Epilepsies (SeLFE) of Childhood

Self-Limited Epilepsy with Autonomic Seizures  
**SeLEAS**

Range 1-14 years (peak 3-6 years)  
Multifocal high voltage spikes

Self-Limited Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes  
**SeLECTS**

Range 4-10 years (peak 7 years)  
Centrotemporal spikes

- Age-dependent
- Normal child - normal intellect, examination
- Classical seizure semiology
- Characteristic EEG features
- Remission in adolescence

Occipital spikes, fixation-off sensitivity  
Range 15 months-19 years (peak 8-9 years)

Childhood Occipital Visual Epilepsy  
**COVE**

Occipital spikes  
Range 4-7 years (mean 11 years)

Photosensitive Occipital Lobe Epilepsy  
**POLE**

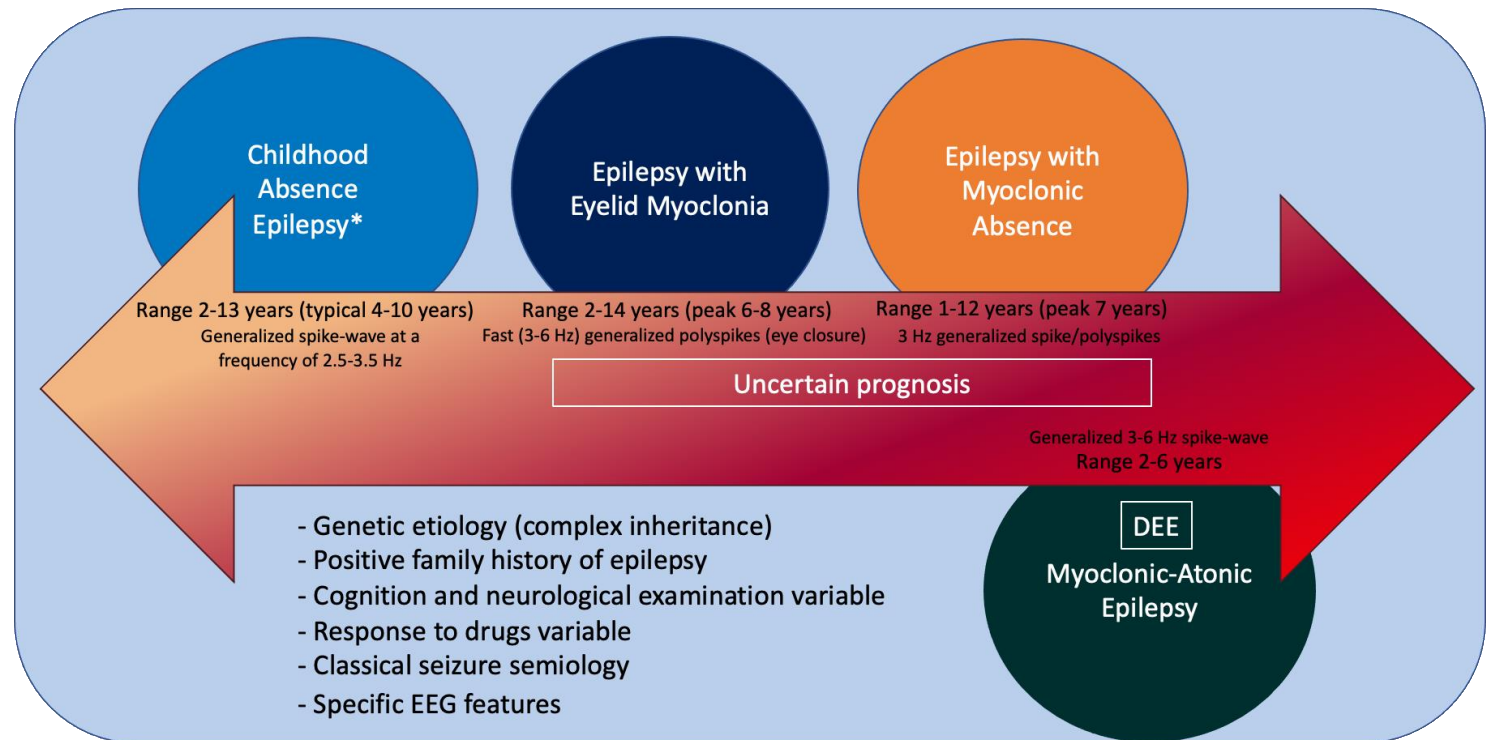
Idiopathic photosensitive occipital lobe epilepsy

# Generalized Epilepsies

Genetic Generalized Epilepsies of Childhood are a group of condition characterized by genetic etiology with complex inheritance, namely with polygenic basis.

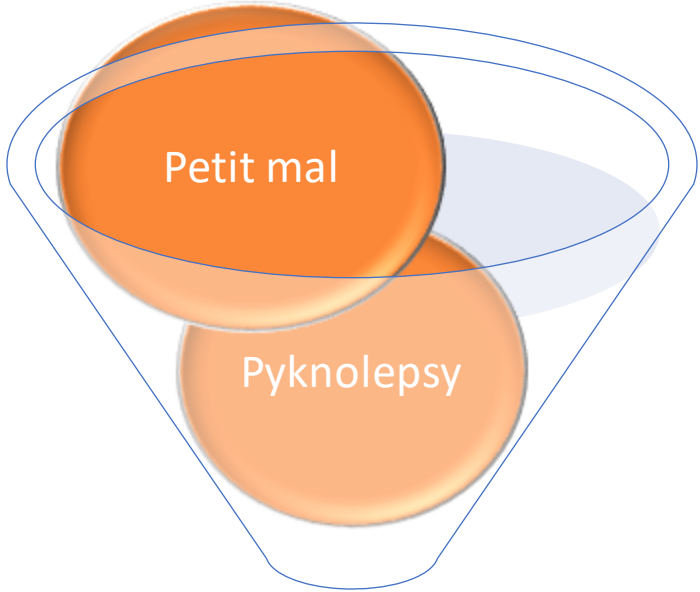
- A positive family history of epilepsy is frequent.
- Cognition, neurological examination and response to drugs are variable.
- Seizure's semiology, and EEG features are specific for each of the syndromes included in this group.

## The Genetic Generalized Epilepsy Syndromes of Childhood



\*discussed in the paper on IGE syndromes

# Generalized Epilepsies



**Childhood  
Absence Epilepsy**

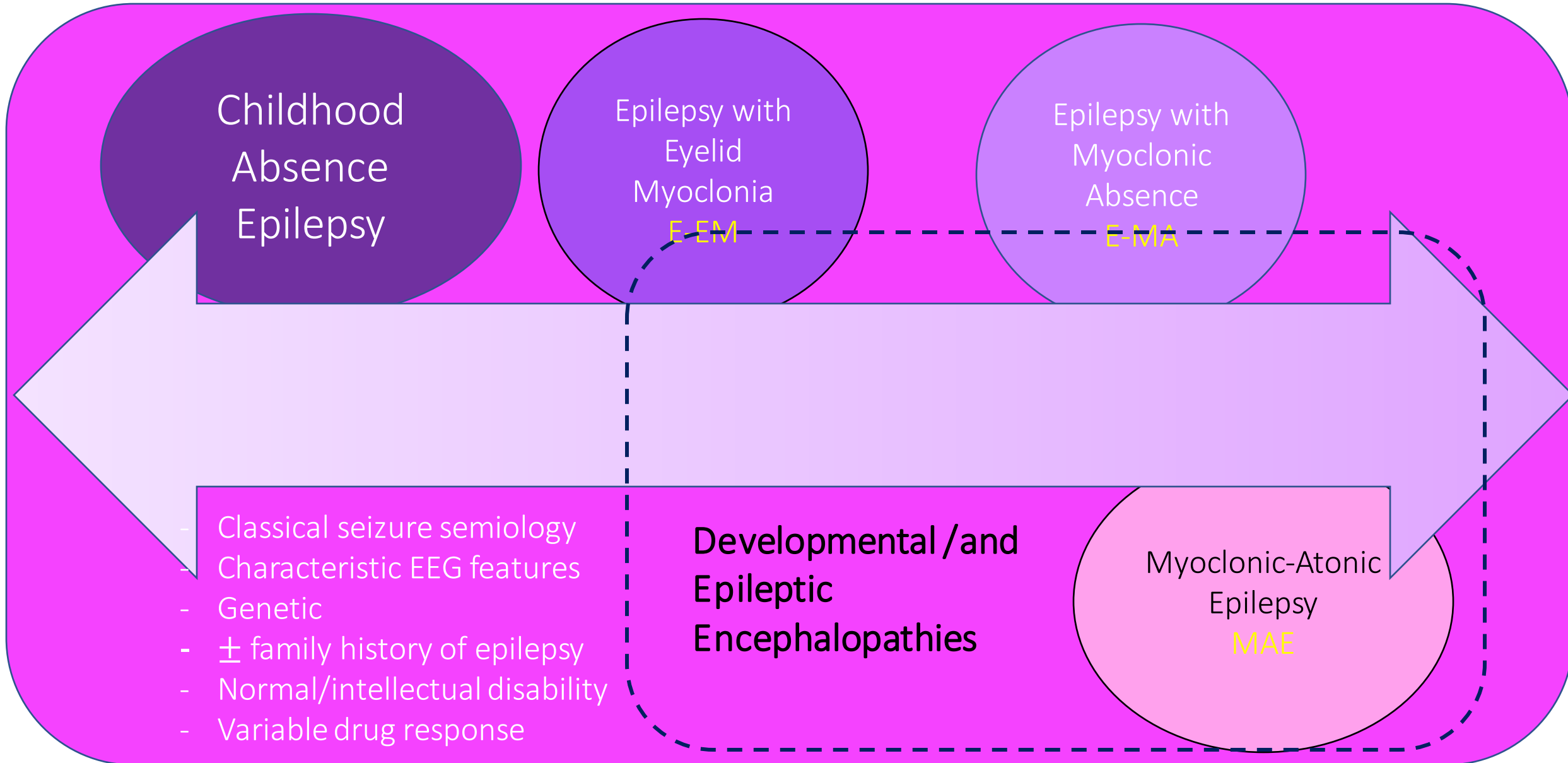


**Epilepsy with  
Eyelid Myoclonia**



**Epilepsy with  
Myoclonic Absence**

# Generalized Epilepsy Syndromes of Childhood



# Epilepsy with Eyelid Myoclonia (EEM)

## Mandatory



- **Seizures:** Eyelid myoclonia
- **EEG:** Eye closure and intermittent photic stimulation elicits fast (3-6 Hz) generalized polyspikes or polyspike-and-wave

## Alerts

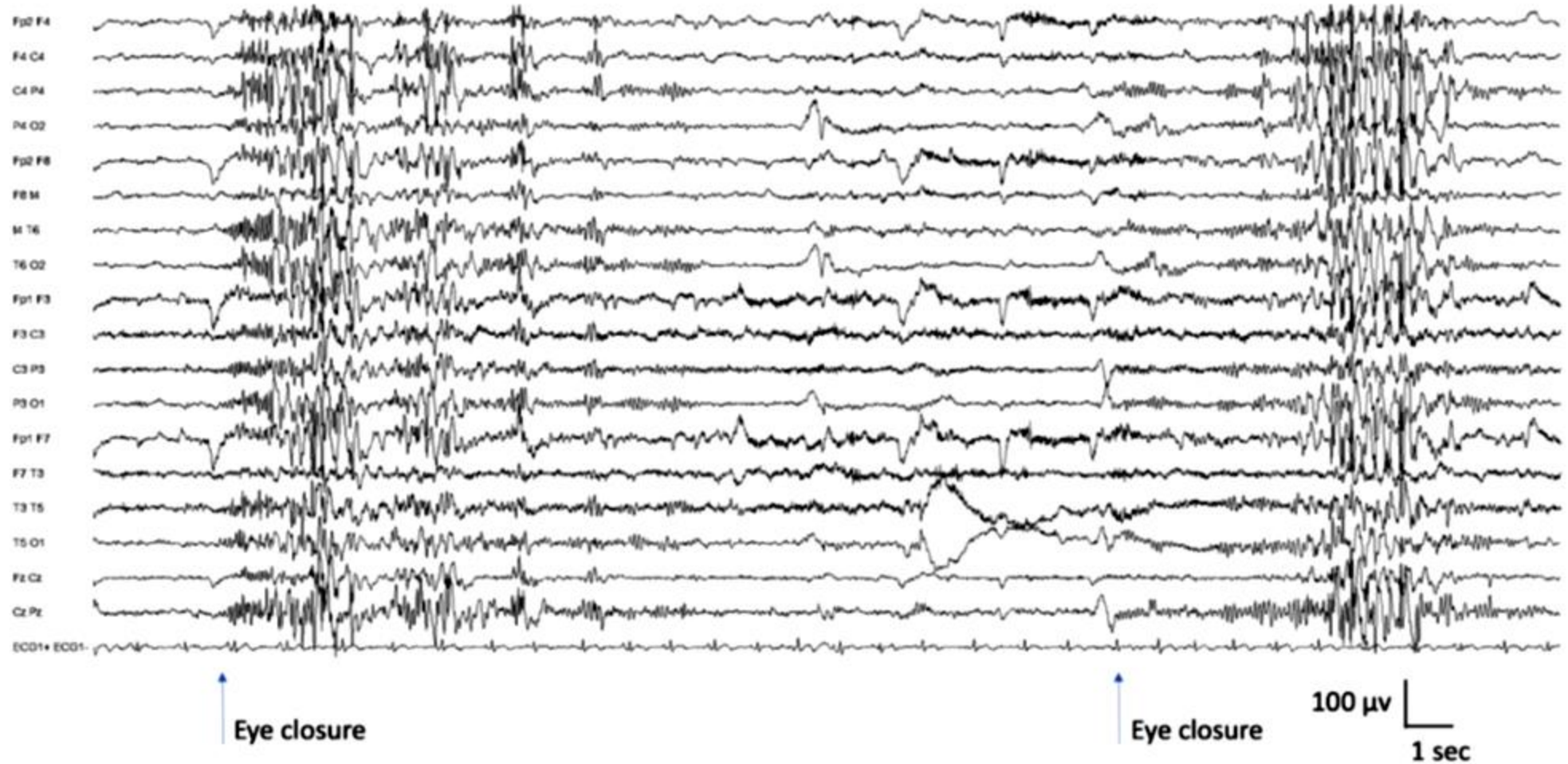


- **Seizures:** Inability to induce eyelid myoclonia in the office by slow eye closure during exposure to bright light in an untreated patient. Myoclonic jerks affecting limbs – strongly consider JME
- **Neurological exam:** Focal neurological findings
- **Imaging:** Potentially relevant abnormal neuroimaging, excluding incidental findings

## Exclusionary



- **Seizures:** Any of the following seizure types:
  - Myoclonic-absence seizures
  - Focal seizures
- **EEG:** Focal slowing. Consistently unilateral focal spikes. Generalized slow spike-and-wave at frequency <2.5 Hz (unless it is at the end of a higher frequency burst). Diffuse background slowing that is not limited to the postictal period. Lack of EEG correlate with typical clinical event
- **Age at onset:** <2 years or >14 years at onset
- **Imaging:** Abnormal neuroimaging with causative lesion
- **Course of illness:** Progressive cognitive decline over the course of the epilepsy



Epilepsy with Eyelid Myoclonia: Ictal EEG in 14-year-old patient with. Background activity is normal. Each time the patient closes the eyes (eye closure artifact is seen) there is a generalized polyspike-and-wave discharge lasting between 6 and 8 seconds clinically associated with eyelid myoclonia. During the second event, soon after eye closure, there is a fast activity discharge that builds up.

# Epilepsy with Myoclonic Absence (EMA)



## Mandatory

- **Seizures:** Myoclonic absence seizures as predominant type
- **EEG:** Regular 3 Hz generalized spike-and-wave time-locked with the myoclonic jerks



## Alerts

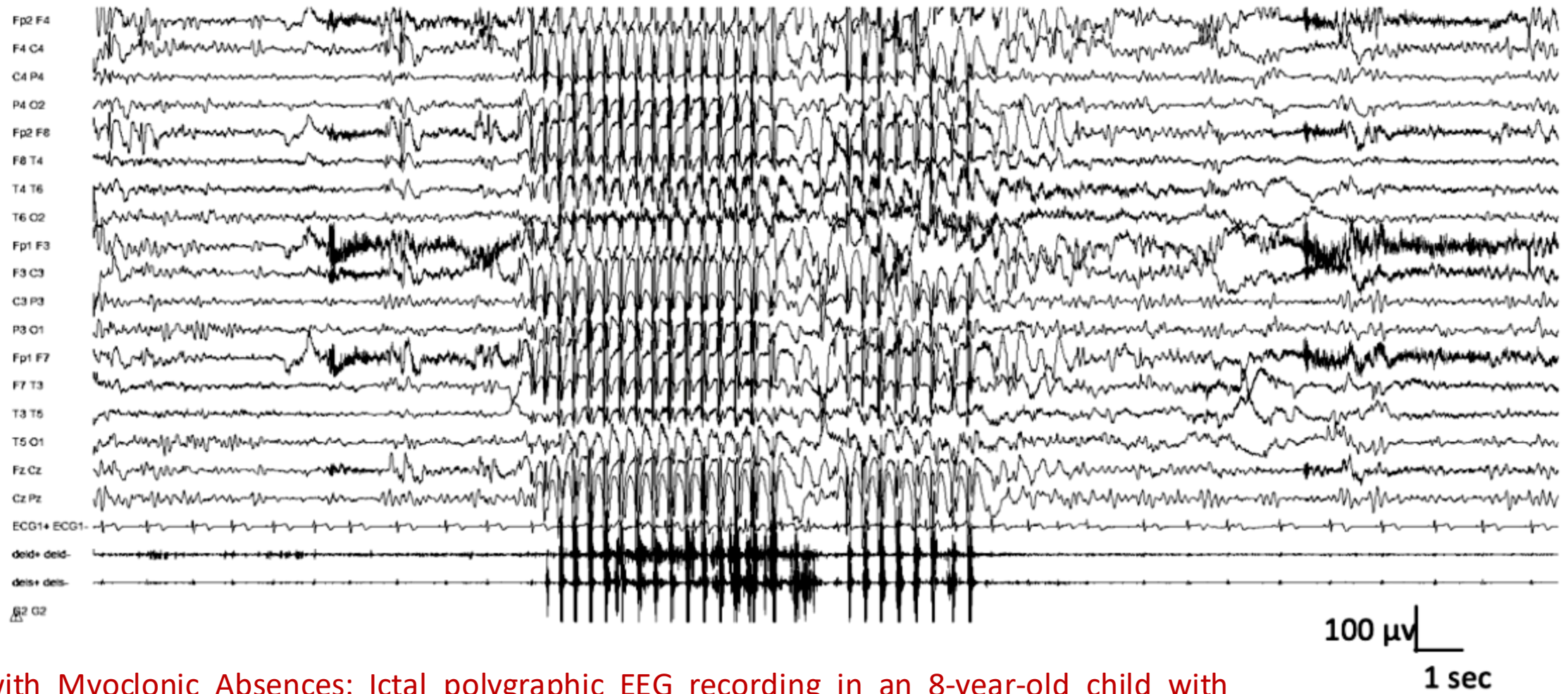
- **Neurological exam:** Moderate or greater intellectual disability. Focal neurological findings



## Exclusionary

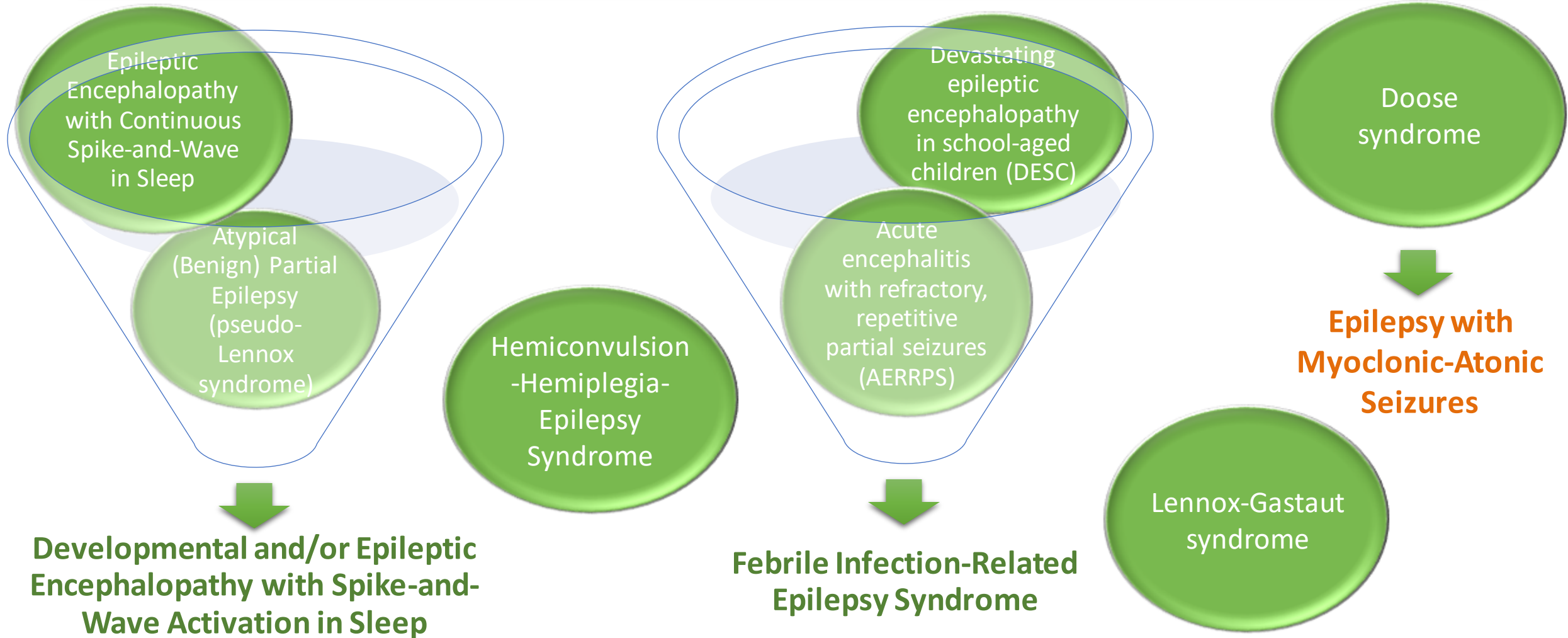
- **Seizures:** Focal seizures. Atonic, Myoclonic-Atonic or Tonic seizures
- **EEG:** Focal slowing. Consistently unilateral focal spikes. Generalized slow spike-and-wave at frequency <2 Hz (unless it is at the end of a higher frequency burst). Diffuse background slowing that is not limited to the postictal period.
- **Age at onset:** <1 year or >12 years at onset
- **Imaging:** Abnormal neuroimaging with causative lesion
- **Course of illness:** Progressive cognitive decline over the course of epilepsy





Epilepsy with Myoclonic Absences: Ictal polygraphic EEG recording in an 8-year-old child with showing a paroxysmal generalized 3 Hz spike-and-wave discharge. EMG channels (right and left deltoids) show bilateral myoclonic jerks synchronous with epileptiform abnormalities, and between jerks there is a sustained increase in muscle tone

# Developmental and/or Epileptic Encephalopathies

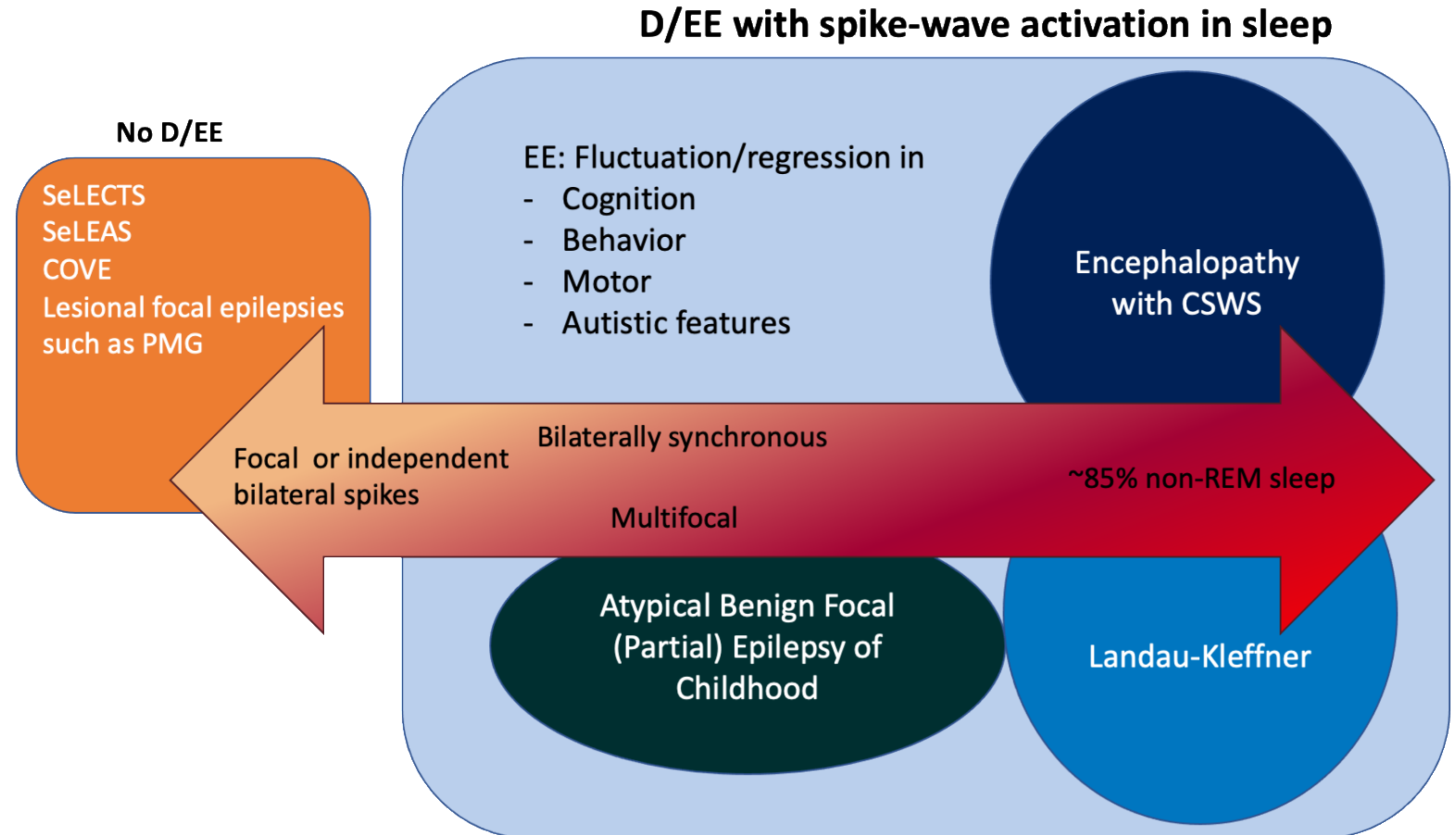


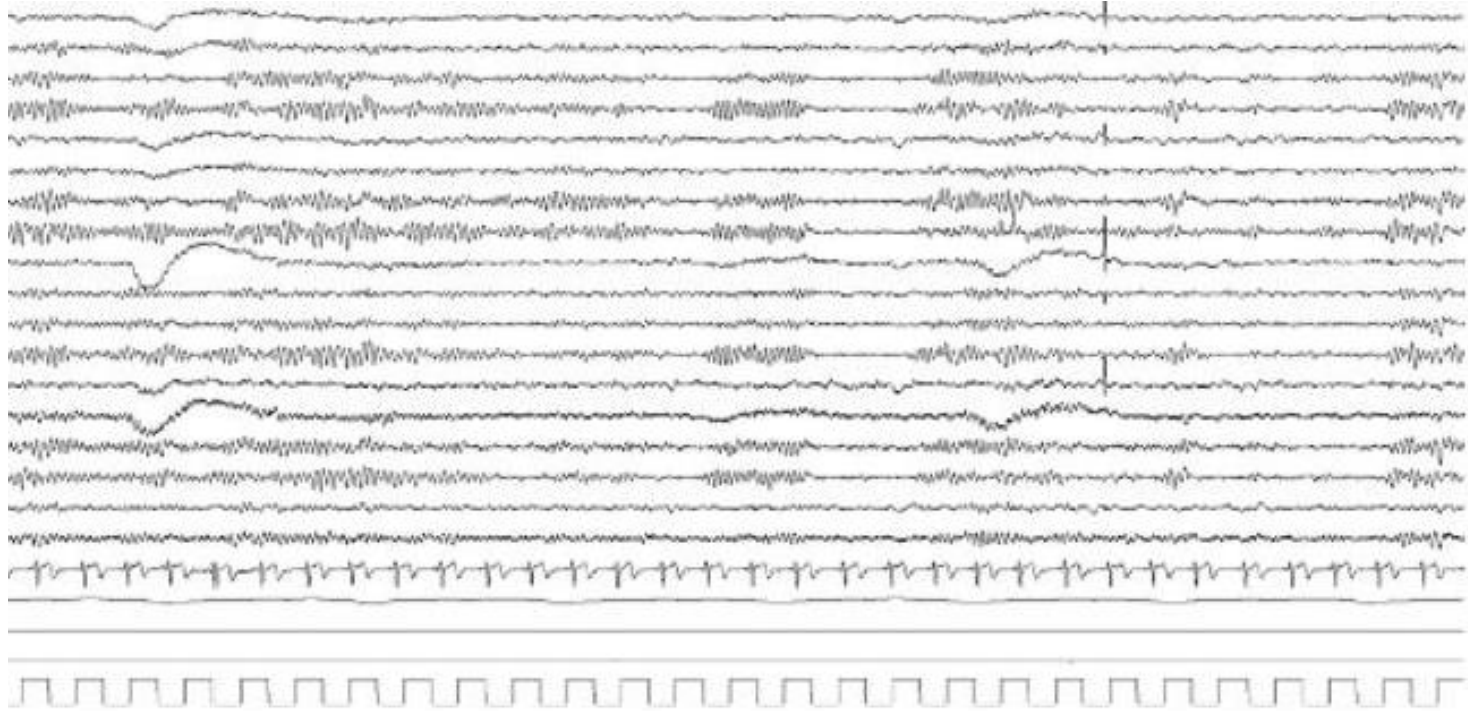
# FOCUS ON Developmental and/or Epileptic Encephalopathy with Spike-and-Wave Activation in Sleep

## The Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies or Epileptic Encephalopathies with Onset in Childhood

Spectrum of conditions:

- cognitive, language, behavioral and motor regression associated with marked spike-and-wave activation in sleep.
- Regression is seen within weeks from the EEG pattern.
- Landau-Kleffner syndrome is a specific sub-type of EE-SWAS, where regression affects mainly language with an acquired auditory agnosia.





D/EE-SWAS

Awake



Sleep

# Developmental Epileptic Encephalopathy with spike-and-wave activation in sleep (DEE-SWAS) and Epileptic Encephalopathy with spike-and-wave activation in sleep (EE-SWAS)



## Mandatory

- **EEG:** Slow (1.5-2Hz) spike-and-wave abnormalities in N-REM sleep. Abnormalities are markedly activated in sleep
- **Development at onset:** Cognitive, behavioral or motor regression or plateauing temporally related to SWAS on EEG
- **Long term outcome:** Remission of SWAS pattern on EEG by mid adolescence, although EEG often remains abnormal



## Alerts

- **Seizures:** Tonic seizures during sleep
- **EEG:** Generalized paroxysmal fast activity in sleep (consider Lennox-Gastaut syndrome). Generalized slow spike-and-wave <2.5 Hz in both awake and asleep states (consider Lennox-Gastaut syndrome)
- **Age at onset:** >1 and <2 years at onset



## Exclusionary

- **Seizures:** Epileptic spasms
- **Age at onset:** <1 year or >12 years at onset

**Epilepsy  
with  
Myoclonic  
Atonic  
Seizures  
(EMAtS)**

ILAE Classification and Definition of Epilepsy Syndromes with Onset in Childhood: Position Paper by the ILAE Task Force on Nosology and Definitions

- Onset between 2 and 6 years
- Myoclonic–atonic seizures
  - brief myoclonic jerk
  - affecting the proximal muscles, often associated with a slight vocalization, followed by a very brief atonic component
- Myoclonic, absences, GTC, tonic, non-convulsive SE

# Epilepsy with Myoclonic Atonic Seizures (EMAtS)

## Mandatory



- **Seizures:** Myoclonic-atonic seizures
- **EEG:** Generalized 2-6 Hz spike-wave or polyspike-and-wave abnormalities

## Alerts

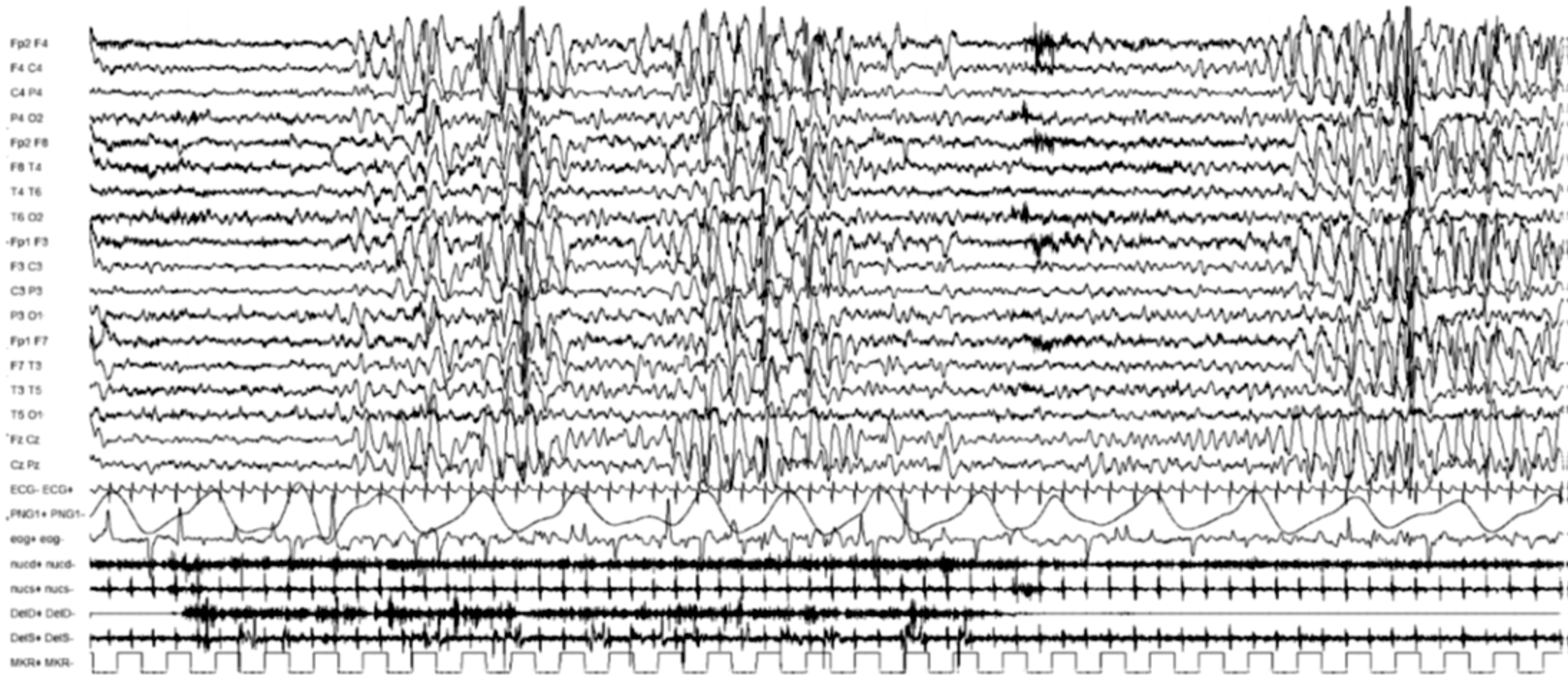


- **Seizures:** Tonic seizures within 12 months of epilepsy onset
- **EEG:** Generalized paroxysmal fast activity in sleep. Generalized slow spike-and-wave <2 Hz. Photoparoxysmal response at low frequencies (suggests CLN2 disease)
- **Development at onset:** Moderate to severe developmental delay preceding seizure onset
- **Neurological exam:** Focal neurological findings

## Exclusionary



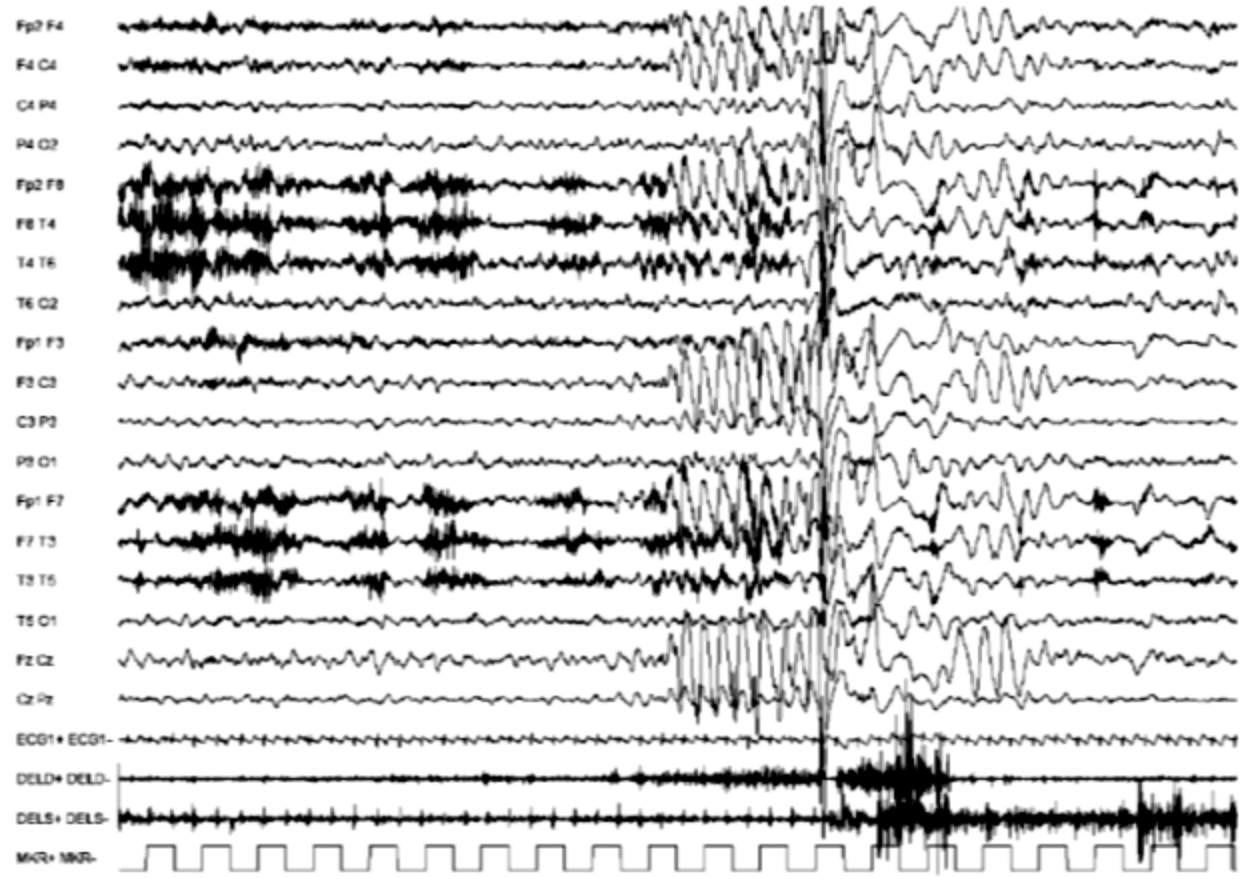
- **Seizures:** Epileptic spasms or ISS prior to diagnosis. Focal seizures
- **EEG:** Persistent focal abnormalities. Hypsarrhythmia
- **Age at onset:** <6 months or >8 years at onset
- **Imaging:** Causal lesion on MRI



**A**

Epilepsy with Myoclonic Atonic Seizures: Interictal and ictal polygraphic EEG recordings in a 3-year-old child. A. Interictal EEG shows bilateral posterior slow waves (4-6 Hz). There are generalized abnormalities characterized by high amplitude spikes and spike-and-wave abnormalities intermingled with high amplitude delta waves without any clinical changes.





**B**



**C**

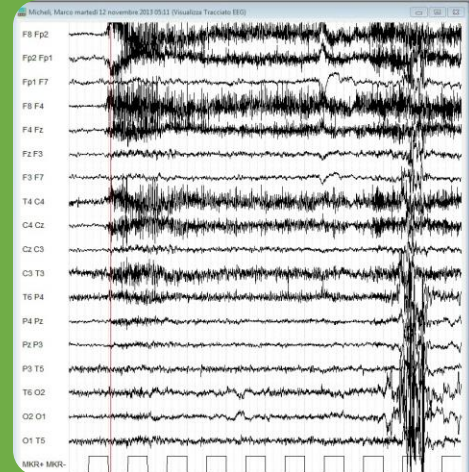
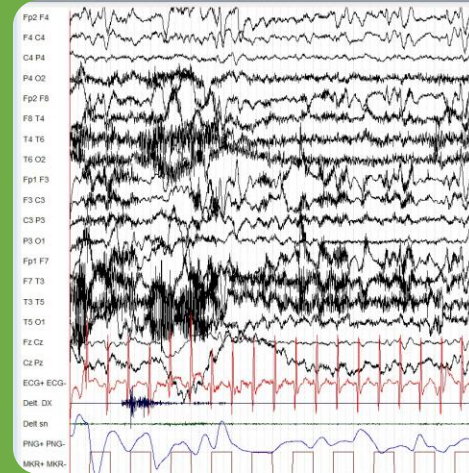
100  $\mu$ v |  
1 sec

Epilepsy with Myoclonic Atonic Seizures: Interictal and ictal polygraphic EEG recordings in a 3-year-old child. B. and C. Examples of myoclonic atonic seizures associated with a generalized spike-and-wave discharge of brief duration. EMG channels show loss of tone in the deltoids (B) and in nuchal and sternocleidomastoid muscles (C). Clinically, the child experiences abrupt falls with both events.

# Lennox- Gastaut syndrome LGS

- 1-2% epilepsies
- Onset 3-7 y (< 18 y)
- 20% evolve from Infantile Spasms
- Multiple seizure types – Tonic seizures
- Cognitive  $\pm$  behavioral problems
- Developmental slowing or regression

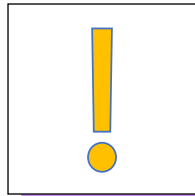
Gastaut et al, 1966, '75; Camfield et al, 1996



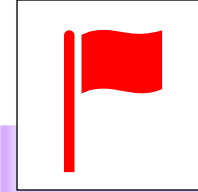
# Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS)



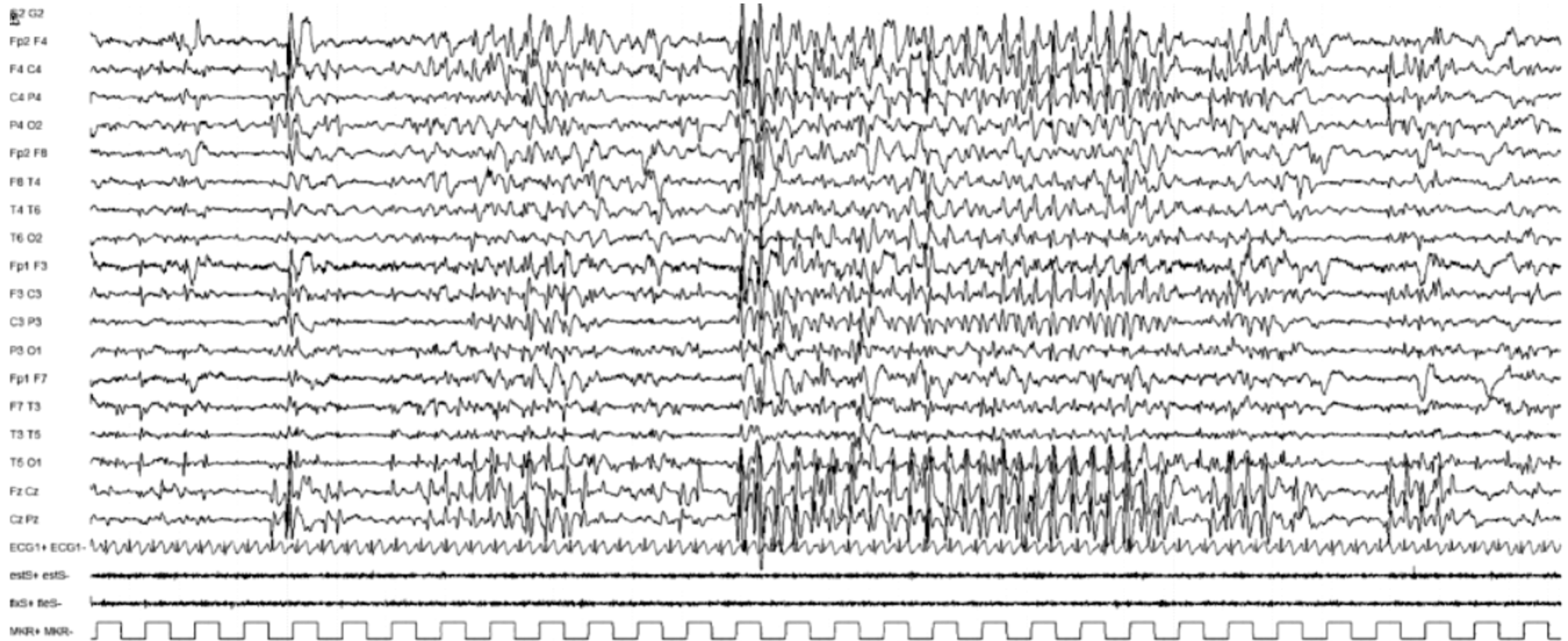
- Tonic seizure
- $\pm$  atypical absence, myoclonic, FIAS, GTC, spasms, NCSE
- GSSW, GPFA
- Onset < 18 y
- Mild – profound ID



- Onset > 10 y
- PPR at slow frequency 1-2 Hz (? CLN2 disease)



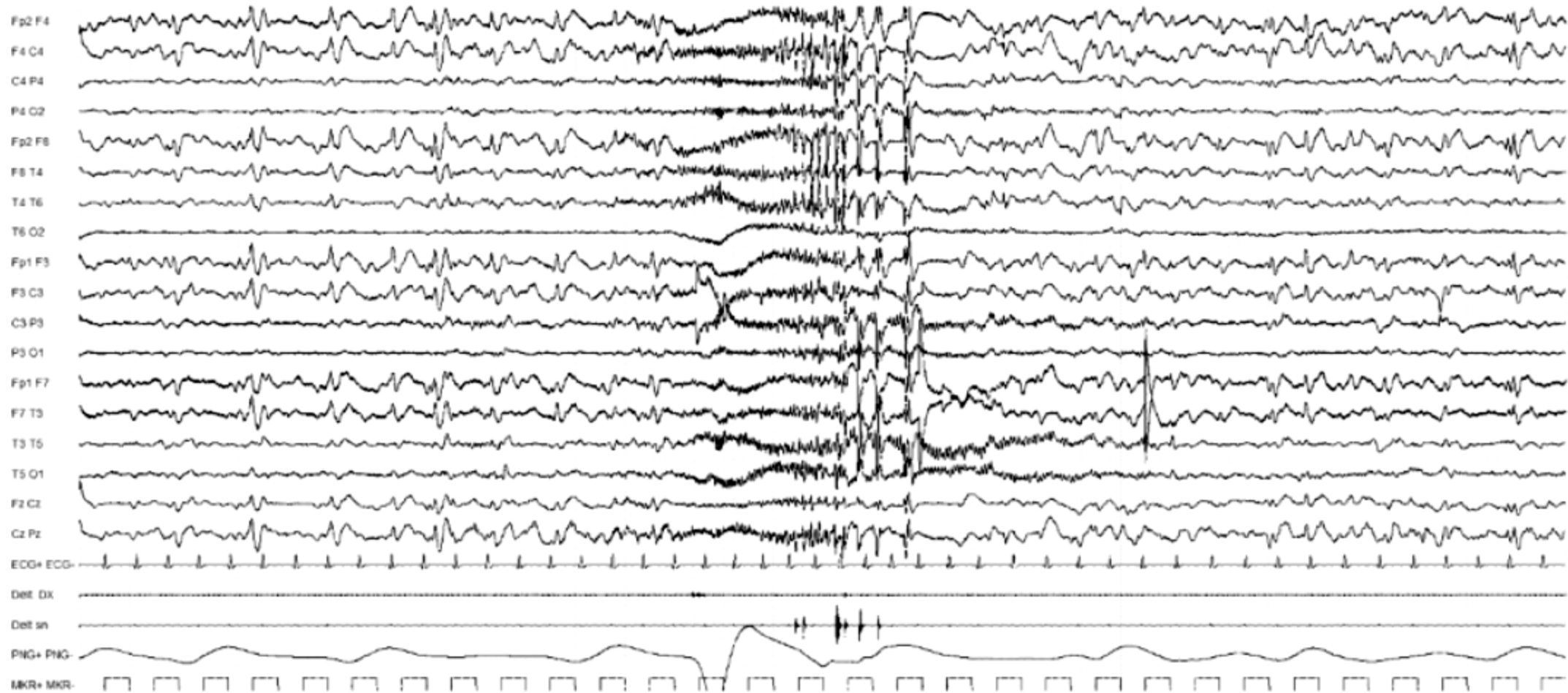
- Persistent focal discharge without generalized spike-wave



**A**

Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome: Interictal and ictal polygraphic EEG recordings.

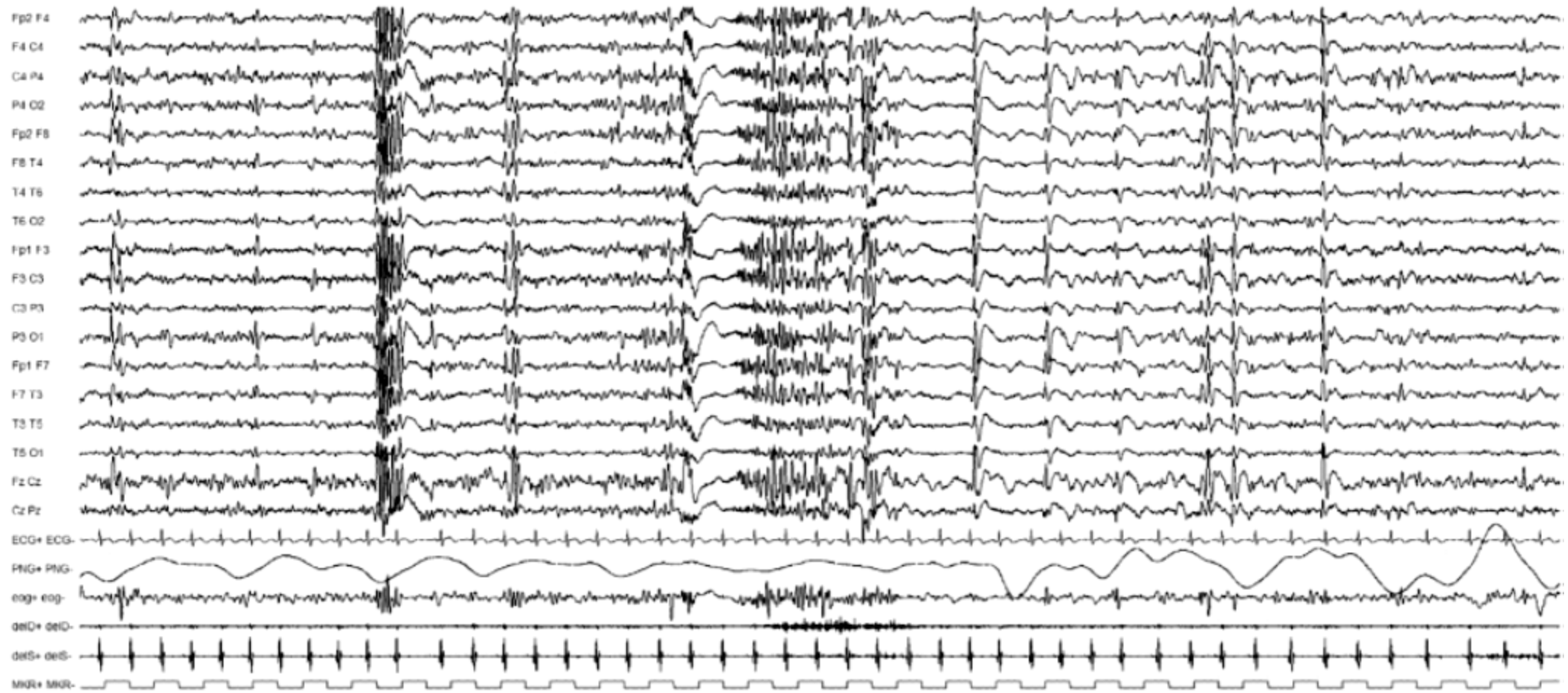
A. Generalized slow spike-and-wave abnormalities (between 2 and 2.5 Hz) are seen, lasting 8 seconds, not associated with any clinical signs.



**B**

Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome: Interictal and ictal polygraphic EEG recordings

B. Generalized paroxysmal 10 Hz fast activity. The discharge is seen during sleep and is not associated with any clinical signs.



C

100  $\mu$ v |  
1 sec

Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome: Interictal and ictal polygraphic EEG recordings  
 C. Ictal EEG showing a generalized electro-decremental response lasting 4 seconds associated with bilateral tonic contraction of the upper limbs, consistent with a generalized tonic seizure.

# Further definitions

## Syndrome-in-Evolution

Syndromes that lack all Mandatory diagnostic features at onset but take time to evolve, e.g. Rasmussen Syndrome early in the course, prior to appreciation of imaging findings.

## Syndrome Without Laboratory Confirmation

Minimum criteria for diagnosis in resource-limited regions, which have little or no access to EEG, advanced neuroimaging or genetic studies.

## Etiology-specific epilepsy syndrome

Syndromes in which there is a specific etiology for the epilepsy associated with a clearly defined, relatively uniform and distinct clinical phenotype as well as consistent EEG, neuroimaging and/or genetic results.

# Conclusions

- The major goal of the Task Force was to reach consensus regarding which entities met epilepsy syndrome criteria and then define each one, using a rigorous consensus-gathering process and creating a resource available worldwide.
- Identified Mandatory, Exclusionary and Alerts criteria for each syndrome.
- Used descriptive names of syndromes as opposed to eponyms; retained some terms as 'Dravet syndrome', 'Lennox-Gastaut syndrome' and 'Rasmussen syndrome'.
- Introduced the term Syndrome-in-Evolution, Syndrome Without Laboratory Confirmation, "Etiology-Specific Epilepsy Syndromes".
- Not included specific treatment recommendations.



## ILAE Task Force on Nosology and Definitions 2017-2021



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