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Full-Length Original Research

The efficacy of the newer antiepileptic drugs in controlling seizures in pregnancy

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Keywords:
Antiepileptic drugs; Pregnancy; Seizures; Lamotrigine; Levetiracetam; Topiramate

Summary
Objectives

To assess the effectiveness of the newer antiepileptic drugs (AEDs)—in particular lamotrigine, topiramate, and levetiracetam—in controlling epileptic seizures in pregnant women.

Methods

Analysis of data in the Australian Register of Antiepileptic Drugs in Pregnancy concerning seizure control in 1,534 pregnancies in women with AED-treated epilepsies.

Results

In AED monotherapy (1,111 pregnancies), use of levetiracetam in pregnancies in the Australian Register was associated with levels of seizure control similar to those that applied for the major older AEDs carbamazepine and valproate, but with levels of seizure control superior to those associated with use of lamotrigine and topiramate.

Significance

Levetiracetam shows promise as a satisfactory drug for controlling seizures in pregnancy.

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