

Genital and sexual manifestations in drug-resistant partial epilepsy

Addolorata Mascia^{a,*}, Giancarlo Di Gennaro^a, Vincenzo Esposito^{a,b},
Liliana G. Grammaldo^a, Giulio N. Meldolesi^a, Teresa Giampa`a,
Fabio Sebastiano^a, Carolina Falco^a, Paolo Onorati^c,
Mario Manfredi^{a,d}, Giampaolo Cantore^a, Pier Paolo Quarato^a

^aEpilepsy Surgery Unit, Department of Neurosciences, IRCCS NEUROMED, Pozzilli, IS, Italy

^bDepartment of Neurosurgery, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy

^cDepartment of Human Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy

^dDepartment of Neurosciences, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy

Summary

Genital and sexual manifestations represent rare clinical phenomena during or after focal seizures. The semiology of these types of automatisms is controversial. In particular, it is unclear whether temporal or frontal structures are involved in their generation and whether these clinical manifestations have a potential lateralizing value. In this view, from a population of 212 consecutive patients with drug resistant focal epilepsy referred to us for presurgical assessment, we retrospectively identified 24 patients with genital ictal manifestations. We evaluated the incidence of these behaviours, the clinical semiology, the associated symptoms/signs with the corresponding ictal EEG findings and their potential role in lateralizing the epileptogenic zone. Our results indicate that ictal genital automatisms are possible in seizures originating from temporal lobe and they cannot be attributed exclusively to frontal lobe seizures. In particular, the most frequent genital automatisms consist in subtle phenomena while hypermotoric behaviour, such as pelvic rhythmic movements are quite rare. No lateralizing value for genital automatisms was disclosed.

KEYWORDS

Temporal lobe

epilepsy;

Frontal lobe epilepsy;

Genital and sexual automatisms;

Video-EEG monitoring;

Epilepsy surgery