the most frequent cause was complex febrile seizures (57%); epilepsies accounted for 22%, and CNS infections (5%). The most commonly used treatments for CSE in Japan are diazepam, phenytoin, and barbiturates as 1^{st} , 2^{nd} , and 3^{rd} -line drugs. Midazolam i.v has recently become a more favorable 2^{nd} line drug. (Sugai K. Acta Neurol Scand 2007;115 (s186):62-70).

Natsume and colleagues findings of hippocampal pathology following prolonged febrile seizures provide further evidence of risk of mesial temporal sclerosis (MTS) and temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) as late complications of childhood febrile seizures. Scott RC et al postulated that MTS nay develop after a lag period (Scott RC et al. **Brain** 2003;126:2551-2557; ibid **Epilepsia** 2006;47:1493-1498; **Ped Neur Briefs** Oct 2006;20:77). Neurosurgical experience has shown that adult patients with TLE associated with MTS are more likely to have a childhood history of febrile seizures than those without MTS (Falconer MA. **Epilepsia** 1971;12:13-31). Perhaps the "benign" nature of febrile seizures has been overemphasized. Efforts to prevent recurrence and rapidly abort febrile seizures should be given more attention, especially in patients with a first complex febrile seizure.

COGNITIVE DISORDERS IN BENIGN CHILDHOOD EPILEPSY WITH CENTROTEMPORAL SPIKES (BECTS)

Intelligence and language functions were examined in 24 children (mean age 9 yrs; range 7-12 yrs) with BECTS and compared with a group of 16 controls matched for age and schooling, in a study at the Instituto Nazionale Neurologico, Milan, Italy. Tests measuring phonemic fluency, verbal expression of semantic knowledge, and reading comprehension revealed mild language defects. Neuropsychological functions were impaired by excess interictal EEG discharges while awake, multifocal spike location, and temporal location. A side-specific impairment was noted, with deficiencies in phonemic fluency correlating with left-sided spikes, and impaired lexical comprehension with right-sided spikes. (Riva D, Vago C, Franceschetti S et al. Intellectual and language findings and their relationship to EEG characteristics in benign childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes. **Epilepsy Behav** March 2007;10:278-285). (Respond: Dr Daria Riva, Developmental Neurology Division, Instituto Nazionale Neurologico C Besta, Via Celoria 11, Milan, Italy).

COMMENT. Children with BECTS have a slightly lower IQ and subtle language impairments compared to controls. A high spike frequency in the waking state has negative effects on cognitive and language function, whereas the sleeping spike rate shows no correlation. In this study, the BECTS-associated subtle neuropsychological dysfunction is not reflected in any school difficulties. Findings at reexamination in later childhood, when BECTS has resolved, will be of interest.

ENDOCRINE EFFECTS OF VALPROATE IN ADOLESCENT GIRLS WITH EPILEPSY

The effects of epilepsy and/or valproate (VPA) monotherapy on physical growth, weight gain, pubertal development, and hormonal status of 68 consecutive female patients aged 6-20 years (20 premenarche, 60 postmenarche) were studied at the Institute for