difficulties, and 5 had persisting absence seizures, some with asymmetric interictal EEGs. None had abnormal neurologic signs, and neuroimaging was unremarkable. (Chaix Y, Daquin G, Monteiro F et al. Absence epilepsy with onset before age three years: a heterogeneous and often severe condition. Epilepsia July 2003;44:944-949). (Respond: Dr Yves Chaix, Centre Saint-Paul, Hopital Henri Gastaut, Marseille, France).

COMMENT. Early onset absence epilepsy is a rare heterogeneous condition with a generally poor outcome.

TEMPORAL LOBECTOMY FOR EPILEPSY WITH CONGENITAL PORENCEPHALY AND HIPPOCAMPAL SCLEROSIS

The clinical characteristics and surgical outcome of 6 patients with intractable epilepsy and coexisting extratemporal porencephaly and hippocampal sclerosis are presented from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL. Of 24 patients with congenital porencephaly and epilepsy, 6 had a temporal lobe epileptogenic focus, and temporal lobe resection was performed in 5. The mean age at surgery was 31 years (range, 15-42 years), and the time from onset of epilepsy was 27 years (range, 14-41 years). Mean age of seizure onset was 4.3 years (range, 6 months to 10 years). Porencephalic cyst volume was 11% of total intracranial volume (range, 1% to 32%). Freedom from seizures occurred in all five patients, at mean follow-up of 47 months (range, 22-67 months). Antiepileptic drug therapy was continued but at lower doses. Hippocampal sclerosis was confirmed histopathologically. Children with congenital porencephaly and intractable epilepsy should be evaluated early, and temporal lobectomy should be considered if clinical, MRI, and EEG findings indicate a temporal lobe origin for seizures. (Burneo JG, Faught E, Knowlton RC et al. Temporal lobectomy in congenital porencephaly associated with hippocampal sclerosis. Arch Neurol June 2003;60:830-834). (Reprints: Ruben Kuzniecky MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham Epilepsy Center, Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) 312, 1719 Sixth Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35294).

COMMENT. A common ischemic cause for the congenital porencephalic cyst and hippocampal sclerosis is postulated, involving perinatal occlusion of the posterior cerebral artery. The most frequent origin of seizures associated with the dual pathology is the temporal lobe. The selective resection of the temporal epileptogenic focus might be considered as an alternative to hemispherectomy, which carries a higher morbidity in these patients.

HEADACHE DISORDERS

QUALITY OF LIFE IN CHILDHOOD MIGRAINE

The Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory (PQLI), Version 4.0 and a standardized headache assessment were completed by children and parents, in a survey of 572 consecutive patients (mean age, 11.4 +/- 3.6 years) who presented with headaches at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Ohio. Most (99%) had a clinical diagnosis