

In the group with epilepsy (mean age 40.2 years), 7 of 20 (41%) patients had left temporal lobe epilepsy, 4 (23%) right temporal lobe epilepsy, 3 (11%) frontal lobe epilepsy, 2 (10%) primary generalized epilepsy, and one (5.8%) symptomatic generalized epilepsy. Three GTC events without a cry were of temporal lobe origin (2 right and 1 left). (Elzawahry H, Do CS, Lin K, Benbadis SR. The diagnostic utility of the ictal cry. **Epilepsy Behav** July 2010;18:306-307). (Respond: Dr H Elzawahry, 2277 Peachtree NE \*302, Atlanta, GA 30309. E-mail:Hoda100@hotmail.com).

COMMENT. In a history of epilepsy in Chinese traditional medicine, cited by the authors, the ictal cry was documented by scribes (Lai C et al. **Epilepsia** 1991;32:229-302). In centers using video-EEG, the presence or absence of an ictal cry should be of value in diagnosis of GTC vs PNES. Compared to tongue biting and urinary incontinence, having sensitivities of 23-25% for GTC (refs cited by authors), the ictal cry is of greater diagnostic value.

William Gordon Lennox, in his "Epilepsy and Related Disorders" (Boston; Little, Brown & Co, 1960, vol 1, p186), paraphrasing Gowers (1901), recounts "the epileptic cry has been compared to the scream of a distracted peacock. Only the larynx of the bird can imitate it. A parrot in the National Hospital, London, could make the nurses come running with its scream." These descriptions aside, audio recordings of children captured in generalized tonic seizures during video-EEG might be of interest.

## **DACHRISTIC SEIZURES WITH LEFT MESIAL TEMPORAL SCLEROSIS AND DURING WADA TEST**

Dachristic seizures are characterized by ictal crying during complex partial seizures expressed as an unconscious behavior without sadness. Researchers at the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL, report a 32-year-old right-handed woman with drug resistant seizures consisting of an aura followed by staring, and crying without sadness or laceration. She had a history of a complex febrile seizure and status epilepticus at 10 months of age, followed by afebrile seizures in adolescence. Presurgical MRI showed left mesial temporal sclerosis. Wada testing revealed left hemisphere language dominance, and left hemisphere injection of sodium methohexital produced immediate speech arrest, right hemiplegia, and crying characteristic of the habitual seizures. Concomitant EEG revealed left hemisphere slowing. Left amygdalohippocampectomy was followed by seizure freedom for more than 2 years on tapering doses of carbamazepine. (Tatum WO, Loddenkemper T. Crying with left temporal lobe seizures and Wada testing. **Epilepsy Behav** July 2010;18:303-305). (Respond: Dr WO Tatum, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL 32224. E-mail: [tatum.william@mayo.edu](mailto:tatum.william@mayo.edu)).

COMMENT. In pediatric patients, hypothalamic hamartoma and temporal lobe epilepsy are the most common localization for dachristic seizures, a rare form of epilepsy. (Luciano D et al. Crying seizures. **Neurology** 1993;43:2113-2117).