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Abstracts

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SHORT TERM SLEEP EEG WITHOUT OR WITH SLEEP DEPRIVATION IN EPILEPTIC PATIENTS FOR PROVOCATION OF EPILEPTIC ACTIVITY?

Short term sleep EEGs without and with sleep deprivation of 24 hours were recorded in each of 190 epileptic patients suffering from various seizure types. Their waking EEG did not show epileptic discharges. Epileptic activity was recorded in the waking and sleep EEG without sleep deprivation — induced by 1.5 mg promazinehydrochloride-syrup — in 100 patients (52.6 %), with sleep deprivation of 24 hours in 101 patients (53.2 %). No differences were likewise seen on subdividing the various epileptic discharges (generalized: 29.5 vs. 29.5 %, generalized with lateral emphasis: 11.1 vs. 9.5 %; focal: 12.1 vs. 14.2 %). Whilst nearly the same provocation rates were seen in the sleep EEG of both groups (51.1 vs. 52.1 %), more epileptic activity was found in the waking EEG after sleep deprivation (33.7 vs. 27.4 %); this difference was nearly exclusively due to a different provocation of generalized spike and wave discharges without focal emphasis (35 vs. 25 patients).

Comparing the EEG and clinical findings, interesting results — without differences between sleep EEG without and with sleep deprivation — were seen. As sleep deprivation is very troublesome both for the patients and the personnel and as it does not result in higher provocation rates, it is to a great extent dispensable.