Efficacy of Anti-Epileptic Medications for Angelman Syndrome

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The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes." --Sherlock Holmes



Folic Acid/Betaine Study

- Conducted from 2001-2006
- N = 62
- Four visits
- Parent Interviews
- Medical Histories
- Physical Examinations Geneticists, NeurologistsEEG's









Effect of Study Medicine



Subjects without Seizure History

- 9 of 62 subjects, younger at entry to study
- Pre-Study blood folate levels higher
- 4 are Ube3a, of which 3 are on Keppra
- 1 is ICM
- 2 are Class 1 Deletion, 1 on Depakote
- 3 are Class 2 Deletion

Definition of Effectiveness

- Seizure-free at time of follow-up interview for at least 6 months.
- Many had been seizure-free for much longer than 6 months
- Note: some had visible absence seizures but parents had reported them to be seizure-free

Anti-Epileptics Used Singly

- Depakote or Depakene/divalproex sodium or valproate sodium 8/15 = 53%
- Gabitril/tiagabine hydrochloride 0/1= 0%
- Keppra/levetiracetam 3/3 = 100%
- Klonopin/clonazepam 6/6 = 100%
- Phenobarb/phenobarbital 2/10 = 20%
- Tegretol/carbamazepine 0/3 = 0%
- Topamax/topiramate 2/7 = 29%
- Tranxene/clorazepate dipotassium 1/1= 100%



Anti-Epileptics Used in Combinations

- Ativan/Iorazepam 2/2 100%
- Depakote or Depakene/divalproex sodium or valproate sodium10/19 53%
- Dilantin/phenytoin1/1 100%
- Kepra/levetiracetam 2/3 66%
- Klonopin/clonazepam 9/12 75%
- Lamictal/lamotrigine 3/6 50%
- Phenobarb/phenobarbital 1/4 25%
- Tegretol/carbamazepine 0/1 0%
- Topamax/topiramate 7/12 58%
- Zarontin/ethosuximide 1/3 30%
- Zonigran/zonisamide 3/3 100%

Effectiveness of Anti-Epileptics Used in Combination for Angelman Syndrome 15 10 Number Controlled Non-Del-Unc 5 Non-Del Cont **Del Uncont** 0 -5^{1/00/100} Deletion Cont 212 combo DIVconto P combo 20 combo combo combo combo Combo Th combo combi -10 **Medications Used**



Prior Published Studies of Anti-Epileptics for Angelman Syndrome

Viani et al, J. Child Neurology 1995 n=18

 "in all of our patients isolated seizures and myoclonic status epilepticus were controlled by sodium valproate or combined with clobazam"..."seizures were increased by carbamazepine"

Ruggieri, M. Arch Dis Child 1998 n=78

 Clonazepam and lamotrigene best seizure control and least side effects, valproate next best. Carbamazepine worst, with vigabatrin and phenobarbitol almost as bad.

Ostergaard, J. Dev Med Child Neurology 2001, n=20

 Benzodiazepines, valproate work well, while oxcarbazepine, carbamazepine, vigabatrin often worsen seizures.

Ruggieri, 1998: Parent Questionnaire Study: N=78

Drug	#pts	#Sz	SzSeverity	Alertness	Behavior
VPA	45	+22	+15	-2	-4
CBZ	22	-14	-13	-13	-9
PB	5	0	0	-1	-2
PHT	5	+1	-2	0	-1
ESM	6	-1	0	-2	-3
LTG	13	+12	+7	+4	+5
VGB	9	-3	-3	-8	-3
CLB	5	+2	+2	+4	+1
CLZ	23	+17	+19	+6	+3
NTZ	4	+4	+4	+3	+2

Prior Published Studies of Anti-Epileptics for Angelman Syndrome

- Nolt, D. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2003, N = 85
 - Clobazam and zonisamide best for sz and behavior but few subjects, Clonazepam and valproate next. Carbamazepine worst for sz and behavior.

Galvan-Manso, M. Epileptic Disorders 2005

 Clonazepam 100% positive response, valproate 80% controlled, phenobarb only 30% controlled. Carbamazepine and vigabatrin worst

Valente M. et al, Arch Neurol 2006.

- Good therapeutic response to valproic acid, phenobarbital and clonazepam. Detrimental effects from vigabatrin, carbamazepine and oxcarbazepine.
- Dion, M. et al, Epilepsia 2007.
 - Lamotrigen is efficacious as adjunctive therapy

Nolt, et al, 2003: Monotherapy

Drug	Sz Frequency	Sz Severity	Behavior
VPA	2.1 (45)	2.2 (42)	2.9 (44)
CBZ	4 (27)	3.7 (27)	4 (27)
ТРМ	3.1 (20)	2.8 (20)	2.9 (19)
PB	2.8 (18)	2.6 (18)	3.7 (18)
LTG	2.6 (18)	2.4 (18)	2.2 (18)
CLZ	1.9 (13)	2.2 (13)	3.9 (14)
ESM	2.6 (7)	2.4 (7)	<mark>3</mark> (7)
CLB	1 (5)	1 (5)	2 (5)
ZSM	1.7 (3)	1.7 (3)	2.7 (3)

Nolt, et a	al, 2003:	Polytherapy		
Drugs	Sz Frequency	Sz Severity	Behavior	
VPA,CLZ	2.8 (6)	2.7 (6)	4.4 (6)	
VPA, TPM	3.8 (4)	3.8 (4)	3 (4)	
VPA, TPM, CLZ	3.3 (4)	2.8 (4)	3.3 (4)	
VPA,LTG	2.8 (4)	3 (4)	1.6 (4)	
PHT,CBZ	3.5 (4)	3.8 (4)	3.3 (4)	



Parent Questionnaire Study: Effectiveness of AED's N=78

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PHT	5	+1	-2	0	-1
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VGB	9	-3	-3	-8	-3
CLB	5	+2	+2	+4	+1
CLZ	23	+17	+19	+6	+3
NTZ	4	+4	+4	+3	+2

Case Reports

- **Topiramate:** 5 patients, 2 sz free, 2 90% reduction, 1 insomnia/akathisia, Franz, D., Neurology 2000
- Ethosuximide: 2 patients treated with high doses attained complete remission along with EEG improvement, Sugiura,C. et al, Neurology 2001
- Levodopa: 2 patients, both improved in motor function and seizures, reduced anti-epileptics. Harbord, M., J. Clin Neurosci 2001.
- Ketogenic diet: 4 refractory patients, all improved, Valente, M. et al, Arch Neurol 2006.
- **Omega-3 Fatty Acids:** 1 refractory AS patient on topamax and valproate improved greatly with incorporation of omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, Schlanger, S., Epilepsia 2002



Clobazam 2, Zonisamide 1

Recommendations

- Remember Clonazepam: It works for AS!
- Avoid: carbamazepine, phenobarbitol, topiramate, trileptal, vigabatrin
- Potential, need more data: levetiracetam, zonisamide, ethosuximide, ketogenic diet



Types of Seizures

- Did not have standardized descriptions at different sites
- Many absence, febrile, partial tonic-clonic, atonic, myoclonic
- Need long-term follow-up for efficacy and side-effects (all studies are too short-term)

Conclusions

- GABAR3 deletion may be crucial factor in clonazepam efficacy
- Different meds for deletion vs. non-deletion AS patients
- Need more data on deletion class vs. med
- Treat syndrome, not just seizure type
- Promising but unstudied: levetiracetam, zonisamide, ethosuximide, ketogenic diet, levodopa, omega-3 fatty acids, vaso-vagal stimulator
- Look for Thiele, E. et al results of ASF parent survey, reporting at this conference

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