

PITFALLS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RESISTANT EPILEPSY

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the definition of treatment resistant epilepsy
- List the risks associated with treatment resistance
- Describe the efficacy of various anti-seizure medications in treatment resistant patients
- Define pseudoresistance and explain the factors that can lead to it
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of monotherapy and polytherapy
- Explain the benefits of prescribing rescue therapies

Key messages

- Treatment resistance carries an enormous potential cost to patients, which can include risk of injury, loss of employment, social instability, and even death
- Before treatment resistance is confirmed, possible causes of pseudoresistance should be eliminated (wrong syndromic diagnosis, non-adherence and presence of non-epileptic seizures)
- Many people with treatment resistant epilepsy can be rendered seizure free, and there is never a reason to “give up”

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