

## ADHERENCE TO ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS IN GERMANY

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### OBJECTIVE

The goal of this study was to analyze adherence to antiepileptic drugs (AED) in children and adolescents treated in pediatric practices in Germany.

### METHODS

The present study included patients aged between 2 and 17 years who were diagnosed with epilepsy (ICD-10: G40) and had received at least two prescriptions of AED between January 2006 and December 2015 in 243 pediatric practices in Germany. The medication possession ratio (MPR) was used to estimate adherence, and patients with a MPR greater than 80% were considered adherent. The impact of patient and drug characteristics on adherence was analyzed using a multivariate logistic regression model.

### RESULTS

A total of 5214 patients were included. Mean age was 10.9 years (SD=4.9 years). The overall MPR was 88.8% (SD=34.1%), and 68.9% of patients were considered adherent. Children aged 5 years or younger were more adherent to AED than those aged between 14 and 17 years (OR=1.22, 95% CI: 1.07-1.39). Individuals living in western Germany

were also found to be more adherent than those living in eastern Germany (OR=1.71, 95% CI: 1.55-1.88). Asthma as a comorbidity (OR=1.59, 95% CI: 1.29-1.96) was positively and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (OR=0.81, 95% CI: 0.71-0.93) negatively associated with treatment adherence. Finally, no significant association was found between adherence and the type of AED.

### CONCLUSIONS

Two-thirds of children and adolescents suffering from epilepsy in Germany were adherent to AED. Age, place of residence, and comorbidities were significantly associated with adherence.

Published in: *Epilepsy Behav.* 2017 Oct;75:36-41. doi: 10.1016/j.yebeh.2017.07.001. Epub 2017 Aug 16



If you would like to read any of the studies in its entirety, please, contact us to obtain the full version of a publication. Also, our research director is at your disposal if you have any further questions.

Thank you for your interest!