

NORDIC GERIATRIC EPILEPSY SYMPOSIUM
SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT



Tromsø May 27-28, 2005

Dear colleagues and friends

During the busy decades after World War II most western countries lost out of sight that the mid-life and younger generations soon would emerge into an enormous and long-lived population with a broad spectrum of geriatric needs. Indeed we realized that aging, along with genes and environmental factors, are of utmost importance of health and disease. Nor are these factors independent. Some neurological diseases of old age have already received attention, but the problem of epilepsy in the elderly only recently was recognized, a challenge of which we still know little. From medical schools the perception was persevered, that convulsive conditions start in childhood and with only rare onset in adult life. No one seemed to have heard of onset in seniority. Thus it was very surprising when the incidence of epilepsy in people above 60 years was demonstrated to exceed that of children. However, one should have been aware that a number of brain disorders with a known increased incidence at age – and related to the risk of seizures – would make up a substantial group in the fast growing elderly population. In near future every third individual in Western Europe with an epilepsy diagnosis is above 60 years of age. Neurologists might translate their experience from younger subjects to the old epileptic patient, but clinical practice demonstrates a spectrum of different and age-related problems. And what about the middle aged person already having epilepsy, who is growing old?

To visualize these important questions of modern epileptology we could not find a better place to meet than in the city of midnight sun and northern light. To the first-ever Nordic Geriatric Epilepsy Symposium (NGES) in Tromsø we invite colleagues from the fields of neurology and geriatric medicine, but physicians from psychiatry, clinical neurophysiology and neurosurgery should also find this symposium of interest. An enthusiastic program committee supplied by scientific guests from our Northern countries and abroad intend to throw beams of light into the previous darkness of geriatric epileptology.

Welcome to NGES in Tromsø May 27-28, 2005



Scientific committee

Chairman: Erik Saetre, Norway
Eylert Brodtkorb, Norway
Leif Gjerstad, Norway
Reetta Kälviäinen, Finland
Birthe Pedersen, Denmark
Erik Tauböll, Norway
Torbjörn Tomson, Sweden



The idea behind the meeting

"In September 2003 an international meeting covering all aspects of epilepsy in the elderly was held in Miami. Only few of the participants were from Europe and even less from the Nordic countries, but during the meeting the idea came up to have a similar meeting in our region. The idea behind the meeting is to attract people already interested in treating epilepsy in the elderly, and also those who want to know more."

Birthe Pedersen

Epilepsy is different in the elderly

"These patients often have comorbidities, several other medications and a higher sensitivity to CNS-related adverse effects. The most important criteria for AED selection is usually tolerability, pharmacokinetics and the interaction profile. Fortunately, the seizures are often readily controlled, but their consequences may be more severe due to cardio-respiratory and bone fracture vulnerability. Other aspects of quality of life than in younger patients should be considered."

Eylert Brodtkorb

NGES 2005 – SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1

13.00-13.15 Welcome and introduction

Session I: Neurobiological aspects and epidemiology

Moderators: *Eylert Brodtkorb, Birthe Pedersen*

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|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| 13.15-13.40 | Ole Petter Ottersen | Neurobiology of ageing – Relevance for epileptogenesis |
| 13.40-14.05 | Lars Forsgren | Epidemiology of epilepsy in the elderly |
| 14.05-14.30 | Erik Saetre | Comorbidities in elderly with epilepsy – an overview |
| 14.30-14.45 | | Break |

Session II: Aetiology and diagnosis

Moderators: *Torbjörn Tomson, Erik Saetre*

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|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| 14.45-15.10 | Morten Lossius | Stroke and other aetiologies of particular relevance for epilepsy with onset at higher ages |
| 15.10-15.35 | Birthe Pedersen | Challenges in diagnosing epilepsy in elderly people |
| 15.35-16.00 | Eylert Brodtkorb | Ageing and epilepsy in patients with intellectual disabilities |
| 16.00-16.15 | | Break |

Session III: Special age-related considerations

Moderators: *Reetta Kälviäinen, Erik Tauböll*

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|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| 16.15-16.40 | Jan P. Amlie | Cardiological aspects of epilepsy and its treatment |
| 16.40-17.05 | Erik Tauböll | Bone health of elderly with epilepsy |
| 17.05-17.30 | Knut Engedal | Brain and mind – neuropsychiatric problems |
| 17.30-17.55 | Reetta Kälviäinen | Growing into seniority with your epilepsy |
| 17.55-18.00 | Erik Saetre | Closing remarks |
| 19.00 | | Evening symposium – separate program |

DAY 2

Session IV: Use of antiepileptic drugs in the elderly

Moderators: *Birthe Pedersen, Torbjörn Tomson*

09.00-09.25	Torbjörn Tomson	Indications and strategies for treatment of epilepsy of late onset – different from other age groups?
Guest lecture		
09.25-10.10	Emilio Perucca	Pharmacokinetic aspects on the use of AEDs in the elderly
10.10-10.20		Short break
10.20-10.40	Eylert Brodtkorb	Pharmacodynamic aspects on the use of AEDs in the elderly (I) – antiepileptic effects and adverse reactions
10.40-11.00	Birthe Pedersen	Pharmacodynamic aspects on the use of AEDs in the elderly (II) – non-epilepsy indications of relevance
11.00-11.25	Erik Saetre	Options and preferences for treatment of epilepsy in the elderly
11.25-11.45		Break

Session V: Provoked seizures and status epilepticus

Moderators: *Reetta Kälviäinen, Erik Tauböll*

11.45-12.10	Sigrid Svalheim	Acute symptomatic seizures in the elderly
12.10-12.35	Ketil Berg Olsen	Status epilepticus in the elderly: Epidemiology, classification, treatment and prognosis
12.35-12.45	Erik Saetre	Closing remarks

Each lecture 15-20 minutes + 5 minutes for questions



What makes epilepsy among elderly of particular importance?

"It is not just the fact that the incidence is higher than during any other period of life. Comorbidity, concomitant medication and age specific pharmacokinetic and dynamic features all require special consideration and need to be included in the cost-benefit analysis of different treatment options. Treatment decisions are thus particularly challenging for physicians caring for elderly with epilepsy."

Torbjörn Tomson

Organisation committee

Chairman Erik Saetre, Norway
Claus Albretsen, Norway
Leif Gjerstad, Norway
Helen Gundersen, Norway
Kari Mette Lillestølen, Norway
Erik Tauböll, Norway

General Information

Registration:

Registration form is enclosed

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Congress location and hotel:

SAS Radisson Tromsø
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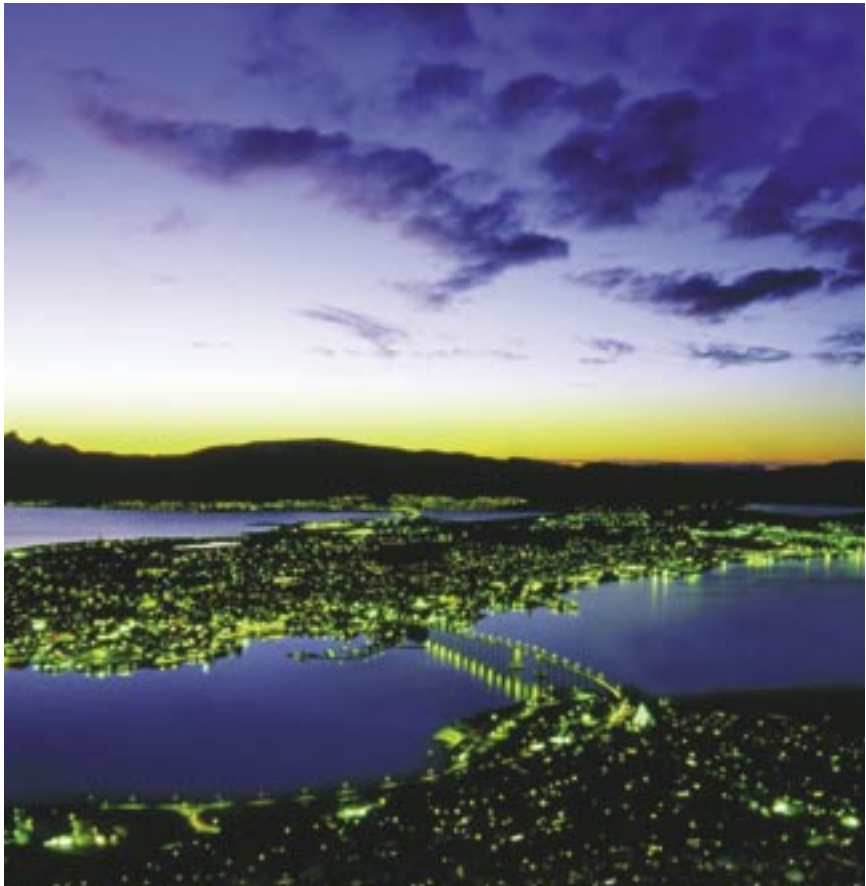
Staying at the SAS Radisson Hotel, gives you 50 % discount on SAS flights.

WELCOME TO TROMSÖ!

Tromsö, the host of NGES 2005, is the world's northernmost university city. With big contrasts the city charms inhabitants and visitors. In the winter some days are cold with beautiful northern lights, other days stormy with large amounts of snow. In the summer time the beautiful phenomena of midnight sun makes it possible to climb the mountains day and night, or enjoy visiting a large number of islands and beaches.

Tromsö, called the Nordic Paris, is also famous for its night life. It is a city with the charm and beauty of both urban and rural life.

Claus Albretsen



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