

New Horizon in Epilepsy

## Update in Classification for Seizure and Epilepsy

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### Why classification is needed ?

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Classification :

- ☞ A universal vocabulary that facilitated communication among clinicians
- ☞ Also established a taxonomy foundation for the research on epilepsy



*In general*

## Types of Classification

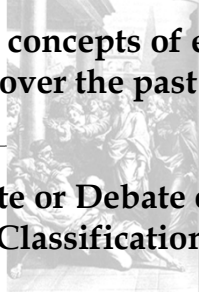
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- ☞ Biology:
- ☞ Etiology: 1<sup>o</sup> (idiopathic) or 2<sup>o</sup> (symptomatic)
- ☞ Pathology: Cancer
- ☞ Imaging: Cortical dysplasia
- ☞ Clinical criteria e.g. age onset, disease course, distribution of symptoms: HA
- ☞ Mixed:

### Changing concepts of etiology of epilepsy over the past 150 years

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### Update or Debate on the Classification

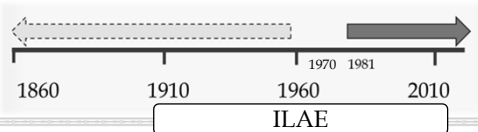


## ILAE

International League Against Epilepsy

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100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ILAE in 2009



### Commission on Classification and Terminology of ILAE

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- ☞ Classification of Epileptic Seizures in 1981
- ☞ Classification of Epilepsies and Epileptic syndromes in 1989
- ☞ A proposed diagnostic scheme for people with epileptic seizures and with epilepsy : Report of the ILAE Task Force on Classification and Terminology in 2001
- ☞ ....2006,.....2010, .....2011,.....

*At present*

## Terminology

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❧ **Epileptic seizure** : a transient occurrence of signs and/or symptoms due to abnormal excessive or synchronous neuronal activity in the brain

Seizure, Greek meaning, to take hold

*At present*

## Terminology

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❧ **Epilepsy**: a disorder of the brain characterized by an enduring predisposition to generate epileptic seizures, and by neurobiologic, cognitive, psychological and social consequences of the condition.

❧ The definition of epilepsy requires the occurrence of at least “one epileptic seizure”

## The classification criteria of

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❧

Epilepsies (Merlis 1970)	Epileptic seizures (Gastuat 1970)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❧ Clinical criteria</li> <li>Seizures</li> <li>Neurologic status</li> <li>Age of onset</li> <li>Etiology</li> <li>❧ EEG criteria</li> <li>Interictal EEG</li> <li>Ictal EEG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❧ Clinical seizure type</li> <li>❧ EEG seizure type</li> <li>❧ EEG interictal expression</li> <li>❧ Anatomical substrate</li> <li>❧ Etiology</li> <li>❧ Age</li> </ul>

Human EEG 1929, Epileptic spike 1934, 3 Hz SW 1935, 1<sup>st</sup> EEG lab 1936

## ILAE 1981

Clinical seizure type

EEG sz type

EEG interictal expression

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1. Partial (focal, local) seizures
  - Simple partial sz
    - with motor signs
    - with somatosensory symptoms
    - with autonomic symptoms and signs
    - with psychic symptoms
  - Complex partial sz
    - start with SPS followed by impairment of consciousness
    - with impairment of consciousness at onset
  - Partial sz evolving to 2<sup>o</sup> gen sz
    - SPS → GTC
    - CPS → GTC
    - SPS → CPS → GTC
2. Generalized sz (convulsive and non-convulsive)
  - Absence, Myoclonic, Clonic, Tonic, Tonic-clonic, Atonic
3. Unclassified epileptic sz
4. Prolonged or repetitive seizure (status epilepticus)

## Classification of Epilepsies and Epileptic syndromes in 1989

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❧ The term partial is replaced with “ localization-related ” but after 2001 returns to use the same word-focal

❧ Term : **Idiopathic, Cryptogenic, Symptomatic** is introduced

## Definition

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❧ **Idiopathic** = a disorder unto itself, sui generis, and not etiology unknown

❧ **Cryptogenic** = designate conditions that are not idiopathic, or are presumed to be symptomatic, when the etiology has not been determined, some conditions that not known whether they are idiopathic or symptomatic

## ILAE 1989

### 1. Localization-related epilepsies and syndromes



#### 1.1 Idiopathic

- benign childhood epilepsy with centro-temporal spike
- childhood epilepsy with occipital paroxysms
- primary reading epilepsy

#### 1.2 Symptomatic e.g. TLE, FLE, PLE, OLE

#### 1.3 Cryptogenic

## ILAE 1989

### 2. Generalized epilepsies and syndromes



#### 2.1 Idiopathic (with age-related onset, listed in order to age)

- Benign neonatal familial convulsions
- Benign neonatal convulsions
- Benign myoclonic epilepsy of infancy
- Childhood absence epilepsy (pyknolepsy)
- Juvenile absence epilepsy
- Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
- Epilepsy w grand mal (GTCS) sz on awakening
- etc.

#### 2.2 Cryptogenic or symptomatic (in order to age)

- West syndrome
- Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
- Epilepsy w myoclonic-astatic sz
- Epilepsy w myoclonic absences

## ILAE 1989

### 2. Generalized epilepsies and syndromes



#### 2.3 Symptomatic

##### 2.3.1 Non specific etiology

- EME
- EIEE w supression burst
- other symptomatic generalised epilepsies not defined above

##### 2.3.2 Specific syndromes/ etiologies

- Cerebral malformation
- IBEM

#### 3. Epilepsies and syndromes undetermined whether focal or generalized e.g. SMEI, LKS, CSWS, neonatal sz

#### 4. Special syndromes e.g. FC, reflex epilepsy, isolated sz

## Epileptic syndromes



œ a cluster of S&S occurring together

œ including :

- : Type of seizures : Age of onset
- : Etiology : Anatomy
- : Precipitating factors : Severity
- : Chronicity : Prognosis
- : Diurnal and circadian cycling

1989

## Two dichotomies, a 4-part classification



Cryptogenic  
Special syndromes

	Localization-related	Generalized
Idiopathic	Localization-related Idiopathic e.g. BRE	Generalized Idiopathic e.g. CAE, JAE, JME
Symptomatic	Localization-related Symptomatic e.g. TLE, FLE	Generalized Symptomatic e.g. LGS, West synd

## The reason for 2001 diagnostic scheme



œ Using the term of complex partial seizure, in the past , sometime confuses with temporal lobe seizures

œ The division in the past created that impairment of consciousness had certain mechanism (limbic system)

œ Replaced the term febrile convulsion by febrile seizures

## The reason for 2001 diagnostic scheme



- ⌘ Misunderstanding of the correct definition of idiopathic, cryptogenic.
- ⌘ But the Task Force believes that most epileptologists have now learned to use the term correctly and that there is value in maintaining continuity.
- ⌘ Great believe that in the near future, genetic classifications of certain epilepsy syndromes will become possible.

## Diagnostic scheme for people with epileptic sz and with epilepsy: 2001



- ⌘ **Axis 1 : Ictal phenomenology**-describe ictal events
- ⌘ **Axis 2 : Seizure type**, from the list of epileptic seizures.
- ⌘ **Axis 3 : Syndrome**, from the list of epilepsy syndromes
- ⌘ **Axis 4 : Etiology**
- ⌘ **Axis 5 : Impairment**

*Epilepsia 2001; 42:796-803*

Table 4  
Epilepsy syndromes and related conditions

Benign familial neonatal seizures	
Early myoclonic encephalopathy	
Ohtahara syndrome	
*Migrating partial seizures of infancy	
West syndrome	
Benign myoclonic epilepsy in infancy	
Benign familial infantile seizures	
Benign infantile seizures (non-familial)	
Dravet's syndrome	
HHE syndrome	
*Myoclonic status in non-progressive encephalopathies	
Benign childhood epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes	
Early onset benign childhood occipital epilepsy (Panayiotopoulos type)	
Late onset childhood occipital epilepsy (Gastaut type)	
Epilepsy with myoclonic absences	
Epilepsy with myoclonic-astatic seizures	
Lennon-Gastaut syndrome	
Landau-Kleffner syndrome	
Epilepsy with continuous spike-and-waves during slow-wave sleep (other than LKS)	
Childhood absence epilepsy	
Progressive myoclonus epilepsies	
	Idiopathic generalized epilepsies with variable phenotypes
	Juvenile absence epilepsy
	Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
	Epilepsy with generalized tonic-clonic seizures only
	Reflex epilepsies
	Idiopathic photosensitive occipital lobe epilepsy
	Other visual sensitive epilepsies
	Primary reading epilepsy
	Stutter epilepsy
	Autosomal dominant nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy
	Familial temporal lobe epilepsies
	*Generalized epilepsies with febrile seizures plus
	*Familial focal epilepsy with variable foci
	Symptomatic (or probably symptomatic) focal epilepsies
	Limbic epilepsies
	Mesial temporal lobe epilepsy with hippocampal sclerosis
	Mesial temporal lobe epilepsy defined by specific etiologies
	Other types defined by location and etiology
	Nocortical epilepsies
	Rasmussen syndrome
	Other types defined by location and etiology
	Conditions with epileptic seizures that do not require a diagnosis of epilepsy
	Benign neonatal seizures
	Febrile seizures
	Reflex seizures
	Alcohol-withdrawal seizures
	Drug or other chemically induced seizures
	Immediate and early post cerebral insult seizures
	Single seizures or isolated clusters of seizures
	Rarely reported seizures (allopathic)

*Epilepsia 2001, Epilepsy research 2006*

Table 1  
Definitions of key terms

**Epilepsy syndrome:** A complex of signs and symptoms that define a unique epilepsy condition. This must involve more than just the seizure type: thus frontal lobe seizures *per se*, for instance, do not constitute a syndrome. (changed concept)

*seizure (clarified concept).*

**Reflex epilepsy syndrome:** A syndrome in which all epileptic seizures are precipitated by sensory stimuli. Reflex seizures that occur in focal and generalized epilepsy syndromes that are also associated with spontaneous seizures are listed as seizure types. Isolated reflex seizures can also occur in situations that do not necessarily require a diagnosis of epilepsy. Seizures precipitated by other special circumstances, such as fever or alcohol withdrawal, are not reflex seizures (changed concept).

**Focal seizures and syndromes:** Replaces the terms partial seizures and localization-related syndromes (changed terms).

**Simple and complex partial epileptic seizures:** These terms are no longer recommended, nor will they be replaced. Ictal impairment of consciousness will be described when appropriate for individual seizures, but will not be used to classify specific seizure types (new concept)

**Idiopathic epilepsy syndromes:** A syndrome that is only epilepsy, with no underlying structural brain lesion or other neurological signs or symptoms. These are presumed to be genetic and are usually age-dependent (unchanged term).

**Symptomatic epilepsy syndrome:** A syndrome in which the epileptic seizures are the result of one or more identifiable structural lesions of the brain (unchanged term).

**Probably symptomatic epilepsy syndrome:** Synonymous with, but preferred to, the term cryptogenic, used to define syndromes that are believed to be symptomatic, but no etiology has been identified (new term).

*Epilepsia 2001, Epilepsy research 2006*

## Comment for 2001 diagnostic scheme



- ⌘ A syndromic diagnosis cannot be made in many pts with epilepsy
- ⌘ But the percentage of pts for whom a syndromic diagnosis is not possible has varied from one study to another
- ⌘ Syndromic diagnoses are most useful in pediatric epileptology esp in children with idiopathic epilepsies but in focal symptomatic epilepsy is in doubt
- ⌘ Difficult to make syndromic diagnoses at the time they appear with new onset epilepsy

## Difference between the approach : Cleveland Clinic and ILAE diagnostic scheme

	Cleveland 2005 (a patient-oriented approach)	ILAE 2001 (a category-based approach)	
Dimension 1	Epilepsy localization (EZ)	Axis 1	Ictal phenomenology
Dimension 2	Seizure semiology	Axis 2	Seizure type
Dimension 3	Etiology	Axis 3	Syndrome
Dimension 4	Seizure frequency	Axis 4	Etiology
Dimension 5	Related medical condition if applicable	Axis 5	Impairment

## Epilepsy ?? comment

Genotypic heterogeneity

Phenotypic heterogeneity

↻

- ↻ Several genes – one syndrome
- ↻ several epileptic syndromes – can occur same family

- ↻ genetic factors
- ↻ environment factor

Syndromes are man-made constructs develops to help consolidate large amounts of information into a form that can be used diagnostically and as a guide to Mx and prognosis

There is no right or wrong, apart from establishing what is the most useful system for the job in hand

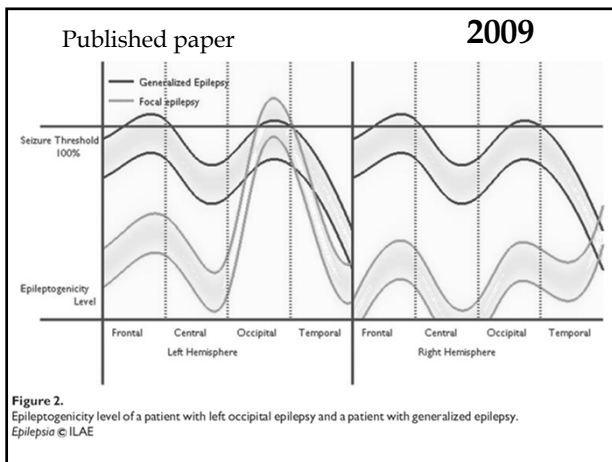
## Changes in classification

↻

Subject to social and political circumstance

Lumper

Splitter



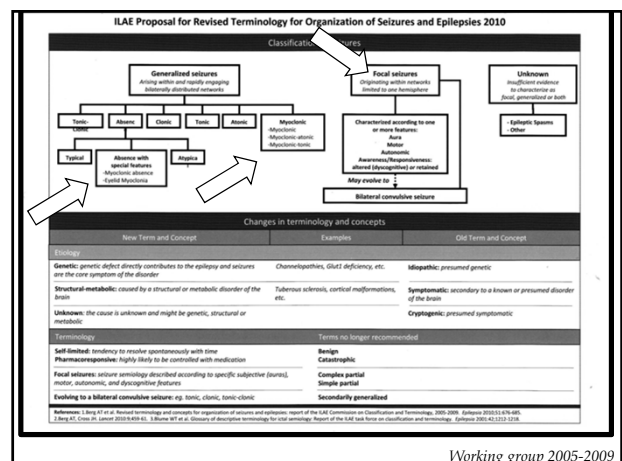
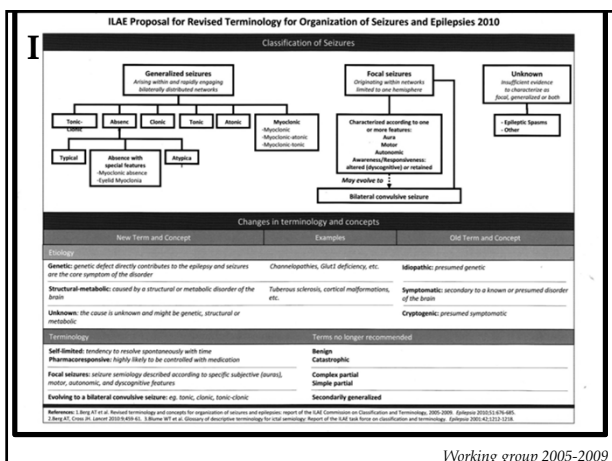
## ILAE classification working group 2005-2009

*Epilepsia*, 51(4):676-685, 2010  
doi: 10.1111/j.1528-1167.2010.02522.x

SPECIAL REPORT

### Revised terminology and concepts for organization of seizures and epilepsies: Report of the ILAE Commission on Classification and Terminology, 2005–2009

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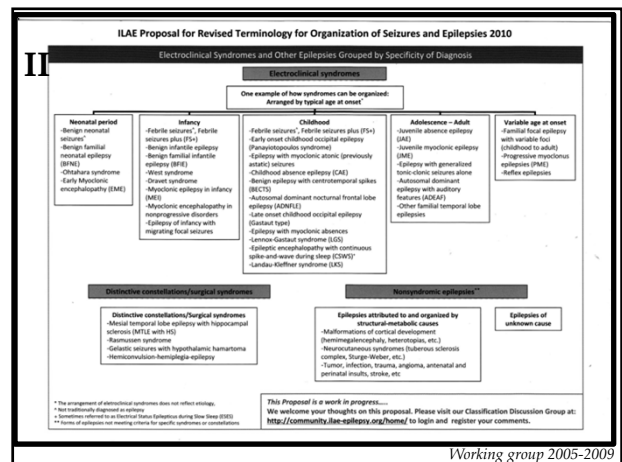
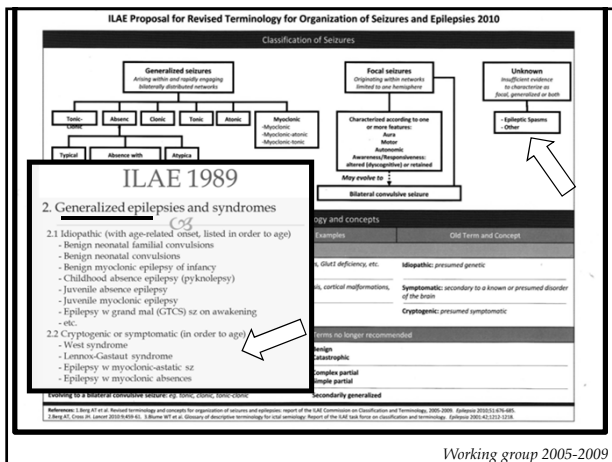


Working group 2005-2009

Working group 2005-2009

old	New
<p><b>Table 1. Comparison of major changes between the 1989 and 1981 Classification and Terminology and the newly proposed Terminology and Concepts (Commission 1981, 1989; Berg et al., 2010)</b></p>	
Old terminology and concepts	Recommended new terminology and concepts
<p><b>For seizures</b> Focal (previously "partial"): the first clinical and electroencephalographic changes indicate initial activation of a system of neurons limited to a part of one cerebral hemisphere Generalized: the first clinical changes indicate initial involvement of both hemispheres</p> <p><b>For epilepsies</b> Localization-related (focal, partial): epilepsies with focal seizures Generalized: epilepsies with generalized seizures</p>	<p>Focal and generalized</p> <p>Focal seizures are conceptualized as originating at some point within networks limited to one hemisphere</p> <p>Generalized seizures are conceptualized as originating at some point within and rapidly engaging bilaterally distributed networks</p> <p>These terms were abandoned as overarching categories for classifying epilepsies per se, as many syndromes include both seizure types; they may still apply in some but not all instances</p>
<p><b>terminology</b></p> <p>self-limited: tendency to resolve spontaneously with time Pharmacoresponsive: highly likely to be controlled with medication</p> <p><b>focal seizures: seizure semiology described according to specific subjective (auras), motor, autonomic, and dyscognitive features</b></p> <p><b>evolving to a bilateral convulsive seizure: eg. tonic, clonic, tonic-clonic</b></p>	<p><b>Terms no longer recommended</b></p> <p>Benign Catastrophic</p> <p>Complex partial Simple partial</p> <p>Secondarily generalized</p>
<p>focal seizure should be described according to their manifestation</p>	

old	New
<p><b>Table 1. Comparison of major changes between the 1989 and 1981 Classification and Terminology and the newly proposed Terminology and Concepts (Commission 1981, 1989; Berg et al., 2010)</b></p>	
Old terminology and concepts	Recommended new terminology and concepts
<p><b>Idiopathic:</b> there is no underlying cause other than a possible hereditary predisposition <b>Symptomatic:</b> the epilepsy is the consequence of a known or suspected disorder of the central nervous system <b>Cryptogenic:</b> this refers to a disorder whose cause is hidden or occult. Cryptogenic epilepsies are presumed to be symptomatic</p>	<p><b>Etiology</b></p> <p><b>Genetic:</b> the epilepsy is, as best as understood, the direct result of a known or presumed genetic defect(s) in which seizures are the core symptom of the disorder. This attribution must be supported by specific forms of evidence <b>Structural/metabolic:</b> there is a distinct other structural or metabolic condition or disease that has been demonstrated to be associated with a substantially increased risk of developing epilepsy. These disorders may be of acquired or genetic origin. When of genetic origin, there is a separate disorder interposed between the gene defect and the epilepsy <b>Unknown:</b> the nature of the underlying cause is unknown; it may have a fundamental genetic basis (e.g., a previously unrecognized channelopathy) or it may be the consequence of an unrecognized structural or metabolic disorder not yet identified</p>
<p><b>Old Term and Concept</b></p> <p><b>Idiopathic</b></p> <p><b>Structural-metabolic:</b> caused by a structural or metabolic disorder of the brain</p> <p><b>Unknown:</b> the cause is unknown and might be genetic, structural or metabolic</p>	<p><b>Examples</b></p> <p>Channelopathies, Glut1 deficiency, etc.</p> <p>Tuberous sclerosis, cortical malformations, etc.</p> <p><b>Idiopathic: presumed genetic</b></p> <p><b>Symptomatic: secondary to a known or presumed disorder of the brain</b></p> <p><b>Cryptogenic: presumed symptomatic</b></p>



**Comment against proposal 2010**

Clarifying their meaning rather than replacing them would be sufficient : *Ferrie 2010*

New terminology and concepts instead of proposing a new classification : *Panayiotopoulos 2011*

The change of concepts is not reflected by any change in terminology: *Wolf 2010*

**Comment against proposal 2010**

Free text descriptions of the numerous types of focal epileptic seizures are fine in a manual of differential diagnosis but should not be used as a classification system and makes futures research, epidemiology and comparisons difficult : *Fisher 2010*

Dose not agree with " focal seizure that be described according to their manifestation" : *Panayiotopoulos 2011*

## Comment against proposal 2010

New Term and Concept	Examples	Old Term and Concept
<b>Etiology</b>		
<b>Genetic:</b> genetic defect directly contributes to the epilepsy and seizures are the core symptom of the disorder	Channelopathies, Glut1 deficiency, etc.	<b>Idiopathic:</b> presumed genetic
<b>Structural-metabolic:</b> caused by a structural or metabolic disorder of the brain	Tuberous sclerosis, cortical malformations, etc.	<b>Symptomatic:</b> secondary to a known or presumed disorder of the brain
<b>Unknown:</b> the cause is unknown and might be genetic, structural or metabolic		<b>Cryptogenic:</b> presumed symptomatic

- ⌘ Genetic epilepsy : some genetic also made structural brain defect → TSC linked with chromosome abnormalitis therefor TSC should be in genetic category or Structural-metabolic category ??
- ⌘ Structural-Metabolic: ??

2011



Simon D Shorvon has published

“ the etiology classification of epilepsy “

## Why more ?



The diagnostic process in clinical practice comprises 2 stages

1. The classification of seizure type/syndrome
2. The assessment of cause

Aim: a framework for a database of etiology : etiology dimension is only one of the aspects of a classification

## The etiology classification of epilepsy



Table 1. Suggested scheme for an etiological classification of epilepsy

Main category	Subcategory	Examples*
1	Idiopathic epilepsy	Pure epilepsies due to single gene disorders Bergin familial neonatal convulsions; autosomal dominant nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy; generalized epilepsy with febrile seizures plus; severe myoclonic epilepsy of childhood; benign adult familial myoclonic epilepsy
		Pure epilepsies with complex inheritance Idiopathic generalized epilepsy (and its subtypes); benign partial epilepsies of childhood
2	Symptomatic epilepsy	Predominately genetic or developmental causation
		Childhood epilepsy syndromes Progressive myoclonic epilepsies
	Neurocutaneous syndromes Other neurologic single gene disorders	
2.1	Disorders of chromosome function	West syndrome; Lennox-Gastaut syndrome Unverricht-Lundborg disease; Dentato-rubro-pallido-luysian atrophy; Lafora body disease; mitochondrial cytopathy; sialidosis; neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis; myoclonus renal failure syndrome Tuberous sclerosis; neurofibromatosis; Sturge-Weber syndrome Angelman syndrome; lysosomal disorders; neurocardiomyopathy; organic acidurias and peroxisomal disorders; prophyria; pyridoxine-dependent epilepsy; Rett syndrome; Urea cycle disorders; Wilson disease; disorders of cobalamin and folate metabolism Down syndrome; Fragile X syndrome; 4p-syndrome; isodicentric chromosome 15; ring chromosome 20
	Developmental anomalies of cerebral structure	Hemimegalencephaly; focal cortical dysplasia; agyria-pachygyria-band spectrum; agenesis of corpus callosum; polymicrogyria; schizencephaly; periventricular nodular heterotopia; microcephaly; arachnoid cyst

Shorvon, *Epilepsia* 2011

## The etiology classification of epilepsy

Table 1. Suggested scheme for an etiological classification of epilepsy

Main category	Subcategory	Examples*
Predominately acquired causation	2.2	Hippocampal sclerosis Hippocampal sclerosis Neonatal seizures; postneonatal seizures; cerebral palsy; vaccination and immunization
		Cerebral trauma Open head injury; closed head injury; neurosurgery; epilepsy after epilepsy surgery; nonaccidental head injury in infants
	Cerebral tumor Glioma; ganglioglioma and hamartoma; DNET; hypothalamic hamartoma; meningioma; secondary tumors	
	Cerebral infection Viral meningitis and encephalitis; bacterial meningitis and abscess; malaria; neurocysticercosis, tuberculosis; HIV	
	Cerebrovascular disorders Cerebral hemorrhage; cerebral infarction; degenerative vascular disease; arteriovenous malformation; cavernous hemangioma	
	Cerebral immunologic disorders Degenerative and other neurologic conditions	
Provoked epilepsy	3	Provoking factors Fever; menstrual cycle and catamenial epilepsy; sleep-wake cycle; metabolic and endocrine-induced seizures; drug-induced seizures; alcohol and toxin-induced seizures
		Reflex epilepsies Photosensitive epilepsies; startle-induced epilepsies; reading epilepsy; auditory-induced epilepsy; eating epilepsy; hot-water epilepsy
Cryptogenic epilepsies*	4	

Shorvon, *Epilepsia* 2011

## Some comments



J Engel agree with Shorvon

1. about the seperation symptomatic cause to genetic/acquired therefore can get rid of structural-metabolic term
2. not agree to include provoked/cryptogenic here, should describe seperately
3. suggest category of surgical remediable

⌘ Berg said that Shorvon's table creates confusion in identifying clinical syndrome as cause

### Compromised Approaches

*Two-tiered classification* M Wong 2011

- ⊗ Categorized according to both semiology/syndrome and causes
  - ⊗ **First Tier:** Describe the most specific syndrome/sz
  - ⊗ **Second Tier:** Identified etiologies or unknown is specified
- Epilepsy syndrome X secondary to Cause Y
- ⊗ e.g. JME secondary to *GABRA1* mutation
  - JME secondary to unknown cause
  - JME secondary to a malformation of a cortical development

### Compromised Approaches

*Two-tiered classification* M Wong 2011

- ⊗ Nonsyndromic epilepsy → Symptom based classification
- e.g. Epilepsy with partial/focal seizure secondary to cause Y
- ⊗ Multifactorial causes
- e.g. Epilepsy syndrome X secondary to traumatic brain injury and *SCNA1* mutation

Update Comment: March 2012  
Panayiotopoulos CP Disagree that.....

1. 2010 ILAE commission abandoned the disease-syndrome distinction
2. 2010 ILAE commission indicated the concepts of generalized and focal were no longer applicable with respect to electroclinical syndromes
  - ? Epilepsy with GTC only
  - ? IGE: CAE
  - ? Familial (AD) focal epilepsy

Update Comment: March 2012  
Panayiotopoulos CP Disagree that....

3. 2010 ILAE commission proposed new terminology and concepts for underlying cause:
  - Idiopathic → Genetic
  - Symptomatic → Structural/-metabolic
  - All cryptogenic and many idiopathic(BRE, PS, ICOE-G) → Unknown
4. 2010 ILAE commission recommended abandoning the designation of benign epilepsy
5. 2010 ILAE commission proposed that age at onset be used as a primary dimension for organizing the epilepsy

### Update Comment March 2012

Luder et al. : The commission should specify the purpose of the classification

1. Suggest to use the Four dimensions
  - Location
  - Seizures symptomatology
  - Etiology
  - Related medical conditions
2. Suggest ILAE to abandon the current approach of defining hundreds of epileptic syndromes that difficult to memorize



### The Near Future

- ⊗ Commission on Classification (2009-2013) is preparing the final draft, to be submitted for approval by ILAE general assembly at 2013 International Epilepsy Congress

