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Major Scientific Publication from the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium (PERC)

New Research Published in the Scientific Journal “*Epilepsy Research*” - Efficacy of felbamate in a cohort of patients with epilepsy with myoclonic atonic seizures (EMAtS)

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0920121124000299?via%3Dihub>)

Niwot, Colorado- Members of the Epilepsy with Myoclonic Atonic Seizures (EMAtS) Special Interest Group of the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium (www.pediatricerc.com) conducted a study reporting the efficacy of felbamate in children with EMAtS. Six large pediatric epilepsy centers performed a retrospective chart review on patients diagnosed with EMAtS at their institutions and collected data on felbamate usage and efficacy. Responders were classified as patients who had a 50% or greater reduction in seizures with a given therapy. Out of 259 patients, 37 (14%) were treated with felbamate. The responder rate for patients taking felbamate was 62%, which was greater than that of either levetiracetam or valproic acid (15%, $p < 0.001$ and 32%, $p = 0.001$ respectively) and similar to that of the ketogenic diet (69%, $p = 0.8$). Felbamate appears to be an effective treatment for EMAtS and should be strongly considered in the treatment course of this disease.

Epilepsy with myoclonic atonic seizures (EMAtS) is a rare childhood onset developmental and epileptic encephalopathy which is frequently refractory to medical therapy. The optimal antiseizure medication remains unknown. This study expands what is known about the best practices for treatment of EMAtS by evaluating the response rate to felbamate in a larger cohort than previously reported.

Dr. Michael Ciliberto, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics-General Neurology at the University of Iowa Health Care System, states “We are very happy to be able to expand our knowledge about the treatment of this rare life-altering epilepsy and hope this helps patients and their neurologists in their journey to choose the therapy that works best for them.”



About the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium

The Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium (PERC) is a national collaboration of more than 75 pediatric epilepsy programs and over 350 pediatric epileptologists, pediatric neurosurgeons, pediatric neuropsychologists, and other pediatric epilepsy researchers. Founded in 2010 by physicians and scientists determined to find better treatments for their patients, PERC has grown to become the leader in pediatric epilepsy research by providing a network and infrastructure to facilitate collegial, collaborative, practice-changing research. Through fourteen special interest groups, PERC works to improve the care of every child with epilepsy. We are particularly committed to fostering development of future pediatric epileptologists by providing opportunities for junior investigators to join ongoing efforts and develop research skills.

Our vision is a world in which all children with epilepsy benefit from the most recent advances in scientific knowledge and technology, regardless of geographic or economic resources. Through large multicenter registries, as well as multicenter retrospective and prospective analyses, we hope to identify preferred diagnostic evaluations and treatments for specific epilepsy syndromes, etiologies, and comorbidities.

Learn more at www.pediatricerc.com

Epilepsy is the most frequent potentially fatal neurologic condition of childhood, affecting nearly half a million U.S. youth (<18 years of age) by 2015 estimates.