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## HEMISPHERICAL EPILEPSIES AND SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS – A CASE PRESENTATION

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### Abstract

**Objective.** Hemispherical epilepsies are focal structural epilepsies and often the seizures are not controlled with antiepileptic drugs and such patients are potential candidates for epilepsy surgery.

**Methods.** We report a 7 years old female patient with normal pregnancy and delivery, delayed motor development and normal intellect who presented intractable epilepsy secondary to severe unilateral hemisphere damage – left middle cerebral artery infarction. Neurological examination shows right chronic hemiparesis, but the girl is able to walk without support, but not to use the right hand. Focal structural epilepsy is refractory to all the drugs that the girl received: valproic acid, clonazepam, levetiracetam, ACTH, clobazam. The electroencephalogram is with continuous bilateral epileptic discharges and the pre-evaluation surgery (video electroencephalogram monitoring for 24 hours) was performed and many focal seizures were recorded.

**Results.** The patient is a candidate for epilepsy surgery and hemispherectomy was performed for this refractory focal epilepsy. The patient is seizure free for almost 3 months after the surgery.

**Conclusion.** Hemispherectomy surgery is a treatment for epilepsy and changes the natural history of refractory hemispheric epilepsies. Seizure outcome after hemispherectomy is good in patients with acquired lesions. The functional outcome, despite the hemispheric disconnection is good and the quality of life is improved.