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Introduction

Epilepsy is defined as a brain disorder characterized by an enduring predisposition to generate seizures (International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), 2005). It is a neurological disorder consisting of recurrent seizures that resulted from excessive, uncontrolled electrical activity in the brain (Wang, 2011). The ancient Babylonian believed that seizures can occur when a person was visited by a demon and thus, the different kinds of seizures arise due to the different demons that visited each person (Stol, 1993). The word epilepsy was derived from the Greek word for attack. The ancient Greeks thought epilepsy was contagious, and hence people with epilepsy used to live alone (Dam, 2003).

Epilepsy still carries a great stigma, thus many people hide their condition, which hinders public awareness about the subject (Cendes, 2011). In 400 B.C, the early physician, Hippocrates, labeled epilepsy as the scared disease resulting from a brain disorder that is caused by cold, sun and the changing restlessness of winds (Zeman, 2008). The modern medical era of epilepsy began in the mid-1800s, with the works of three English neurologists: Russell Reynolds, John Hughlings Jackson, and Sir William Richard Gowers (Rose, 1999). Jackson defined a seizure as "an occasional, an excessive, and a disorderly discharge of nerve tissue on muscles." (Chillemi, 2012).His definition is still used to describe seizures.

Epilepsy is classified into different types, depending on part of brain that is affected and the resulting seizure. However, all type of epilepsies have the same symptoms; characterized by convulsions and seizures. Although epilepsy can develop at *any age*,it was assumed to be a condition of childhood health issue. In fact, about 30% of new cases detected every year began in childhood. However, high incidences were also reported in people above the age of 65 (Epilepsy Canada, 2011). Data from Ontario Health Survey has shown that there is a 0.1 % increase in the prevalence of epilepsy after the age of 25 (extracted on 2012). According to one study, epilepsy is a very common chronic disease affecting as many as 1 in 100 Canadians, or 1% of the total population (Tellez-Zenteno JF, Pondal-Sordo M, Matijevic S, & Wiebe S, 2004).

Even though epilepsy is very common disease in North America, the information on the subject is not easily accessible. Moreover, researches done on this disease are presented in professional language, and thus people with no relevant medical background have difficulties to understand it clearly. Therefore this report aims to gather valuable information on epilepsy and provide simple explanations on the issue of the most complicated processes that occur in the brain of epileptic patients. Large part of the report has focused on the biological processes that occur within an epileptic

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