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## SNOMED CT and Epilepsy: New International League Against Epilepsy seizure and epilepsy classifications

November 17, 2021 | 19:00 UTC



# Julie – 2 years old

- Presents with multiple daily events
- Normal development
- Normal examination
- No family history

Julie – 8 years old

Julie – 8 years old

# EPILEPSY and SNOMED

1. Epilepsy
2. International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)
3. ILAE classification history, process and progress
4. ILAE Position Papers: new concepts and terminology
5. Rationale for evolution of terms and concepts: absence seizures
6. SNOMED ILAE collaboration

# Epileptic Seizure

*A transient occurrence of signs and/or symptoms due to abnormal excessive or synchronous neuronal activity in the brain.*



# Epilepsy

*Two or more unprovoked epileptic seizures*





# **Epilepsy Syndrome:**

*A characteristic cluster of clinical and EEG features, often supported by specific etiological findings.*

MRI &  
EEG

AGE OF  
ONSET

SEIZURES  
TYPES

**Epilepsy  
Syndrome**

COMORBIDITIES

EXAMINATION

DEVELOPMENT

# Why are epilepsy syndromes important?



Guide investigations



Provide prognosis: seizure and comorbidities



Provide aetiological information



Guide management



Enable effective research

*“Epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide with no age, racial, social class, national, nor geographic boundaries.”*



**World Health  
Organization**

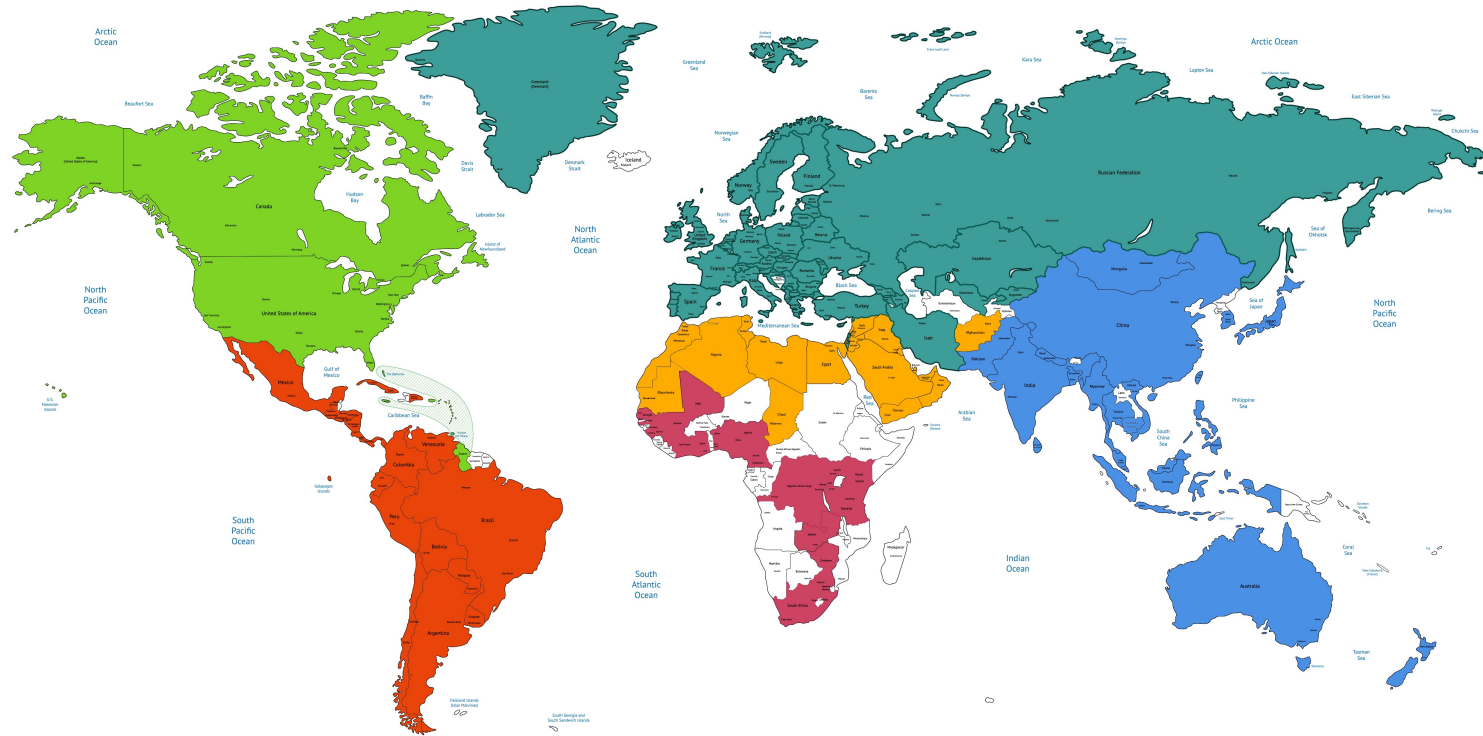


The World's preeminent association of health care professionals and scientists working toward a world where no person's life is limited by epilepsy

Established in 1909

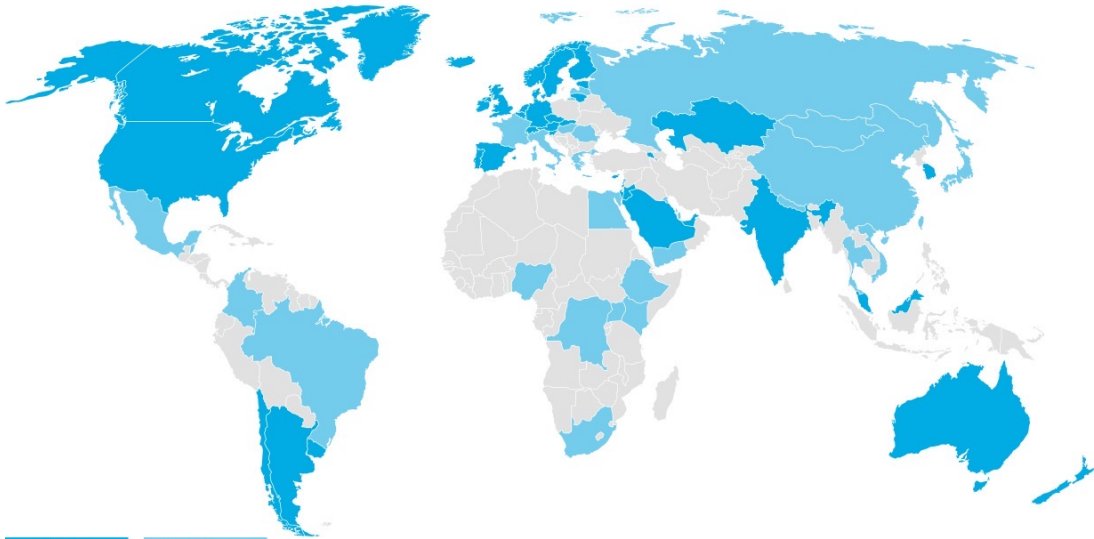


# International League Against Epilepsy

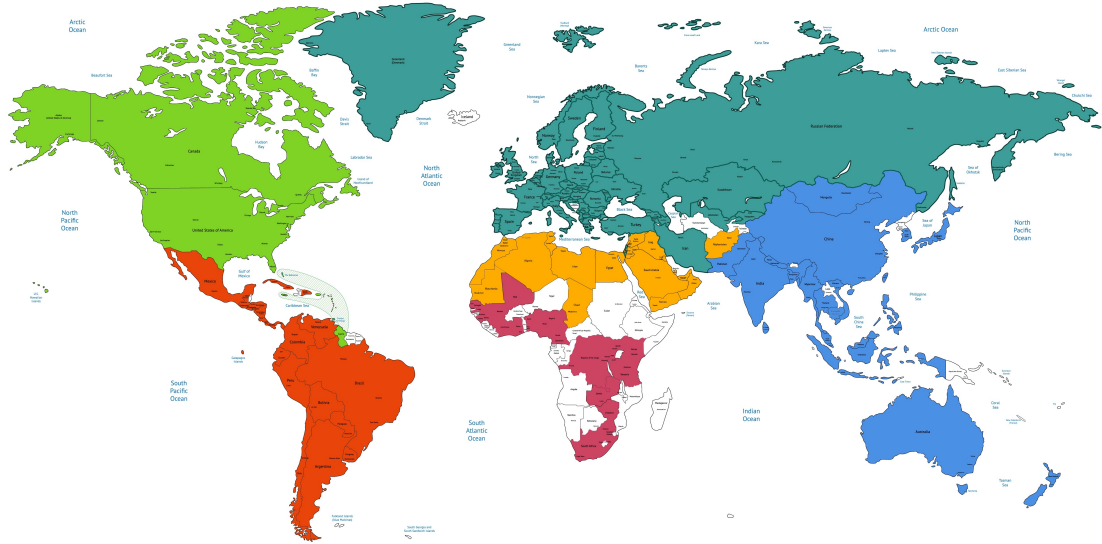




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Goal is to enhance the content related to seizures and epilepsy in SNOMED CT to ensure clinicians have the latest evidence-based content available to them for point of care recording.



# Terminology and Classification of the Epilepsies



**Purpose: for clinical diagnosis**

Transparent language: words that mean what they say

# Previous ILAE Classification and Terminology Publications

**1970:** Clinical and EEG Classification of Epileptic Seizures

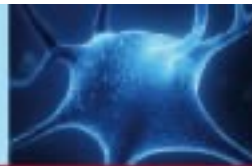
**1981:** Revised Clinical and EEG Classification of the Epileptic Seizures

**1985:** Classification of Epilepsies and Epileptic Syndromes

**1989:** Revised Classification of Epilepsies and Epileptic Syndromes

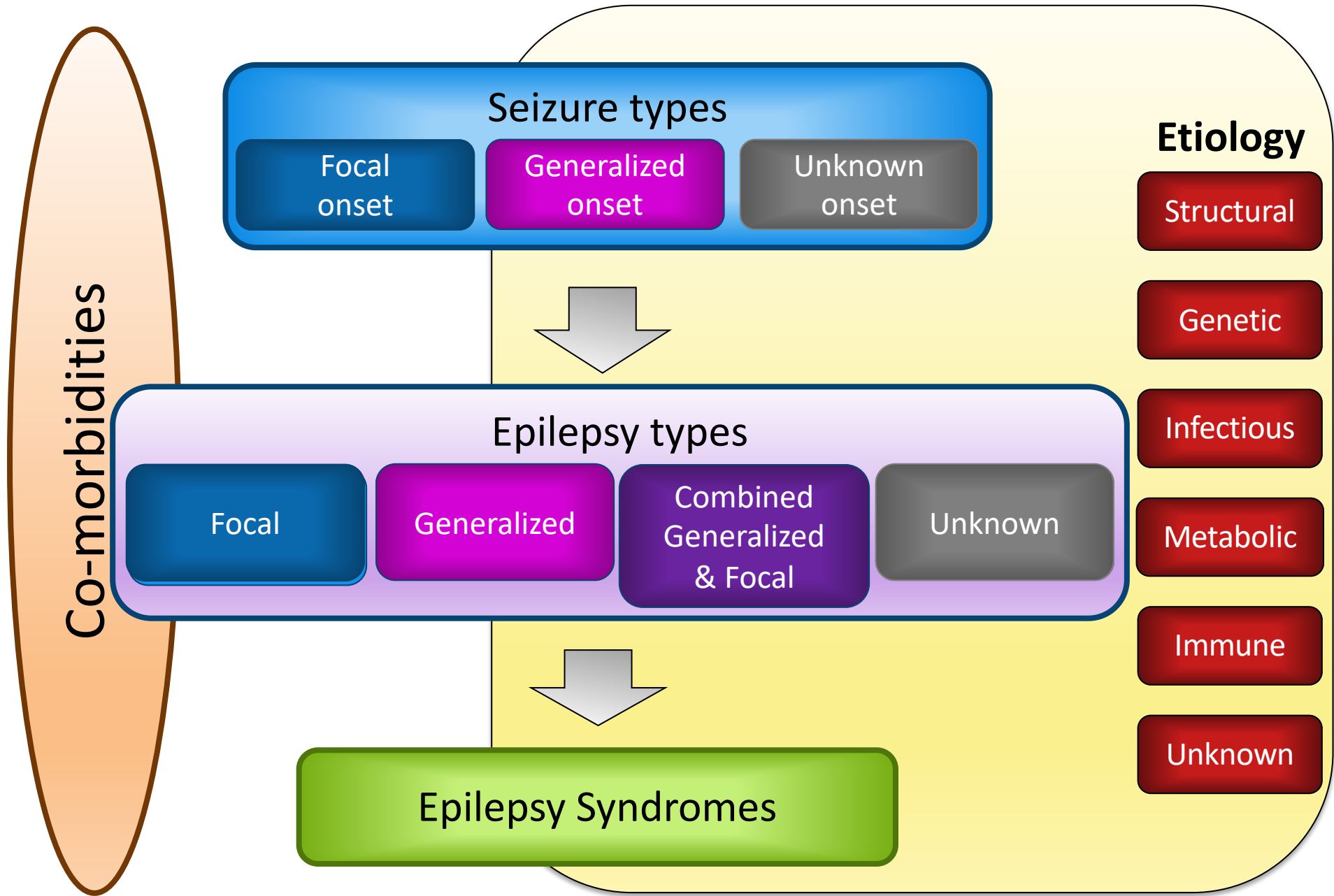
**2010:** Revised terminology and concepts for organization of seizures and epilepsies

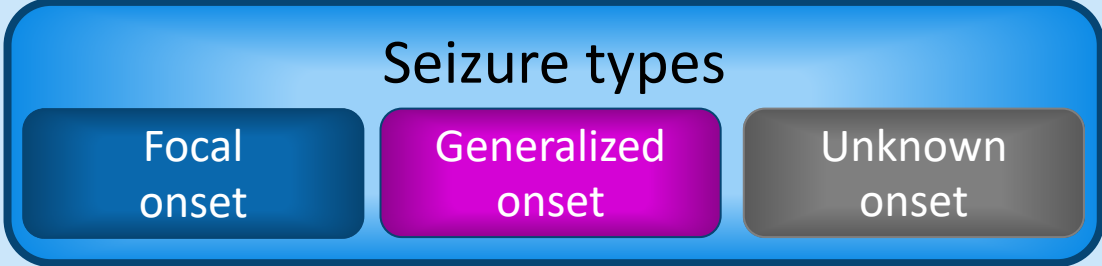
# ILAE Position Paper Process

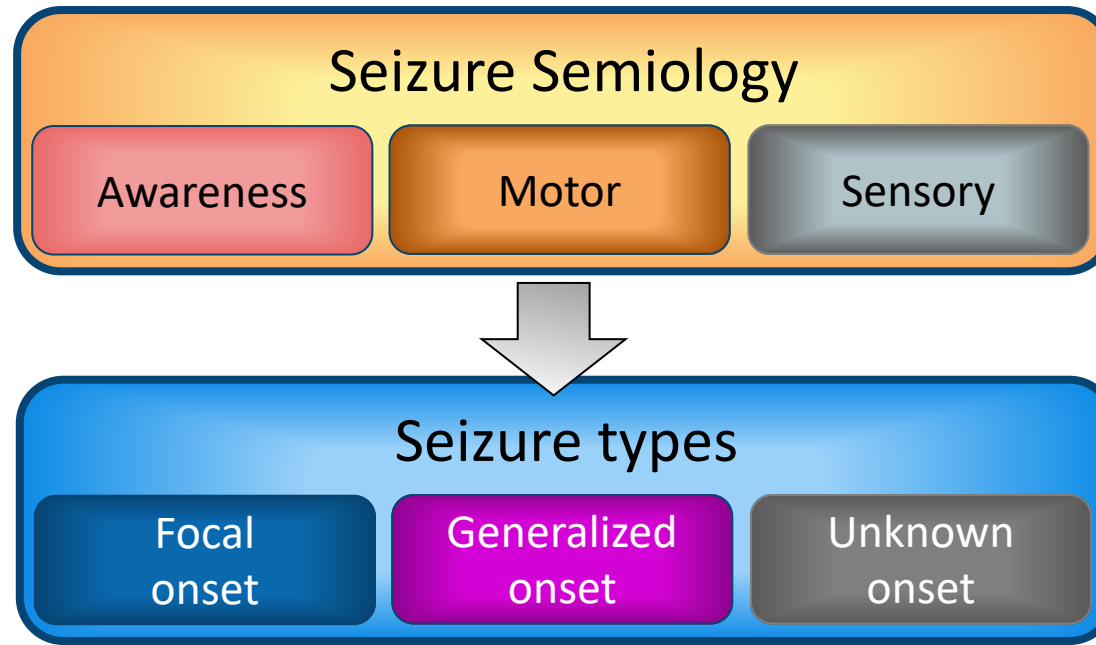


# ILAE Position Papers: Commission for Classification and Terminology

- 2014:** A practical and clinical definition of Epilepsy
- 2017:** **Operational classification of seizure types**
- 2017:** **Classification of the epilepsies**
- 2020:** **Modifications for seizures in the neonate**
- 2022:** **Classification & definitions of epilepsy syndromes**





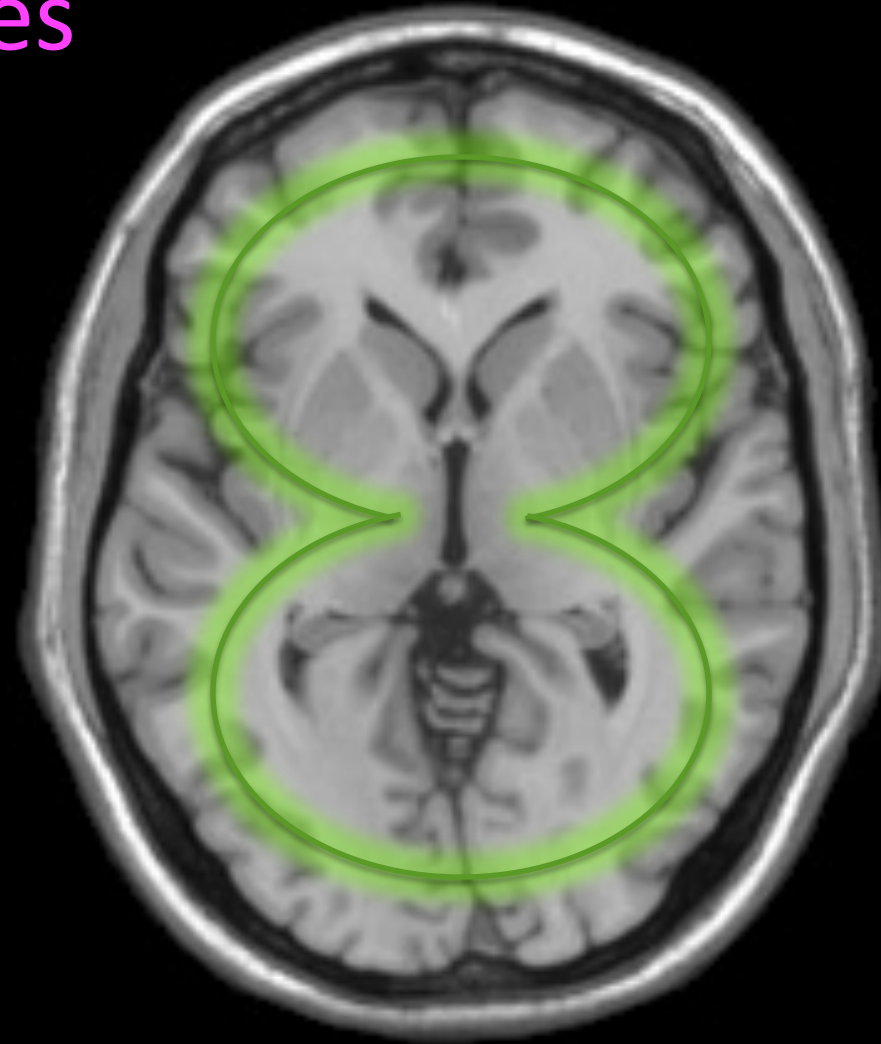


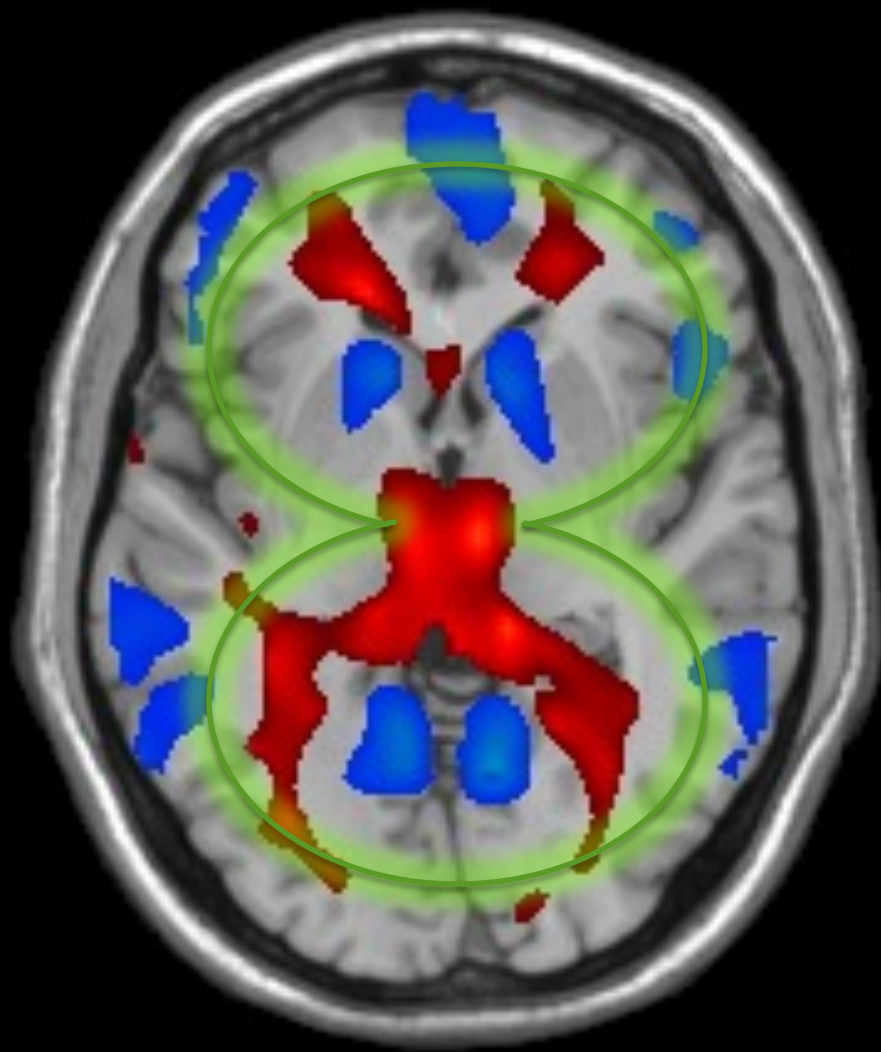
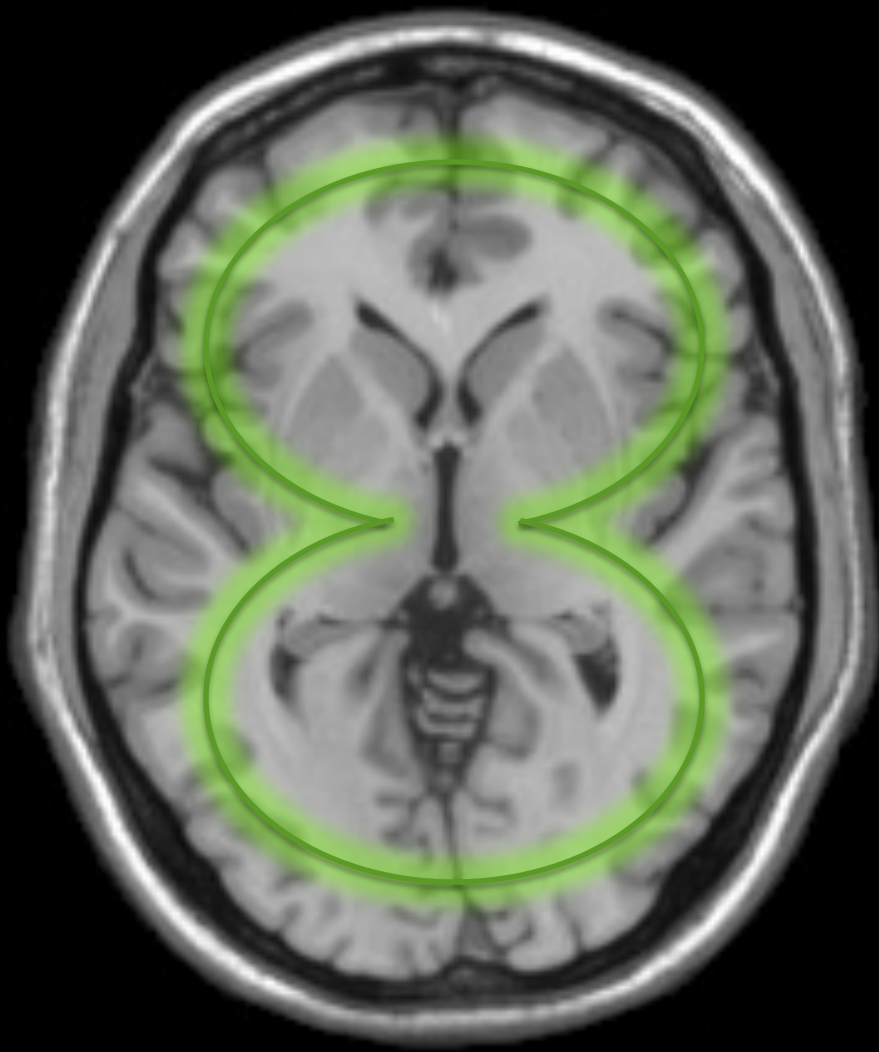




## Generalized seizures

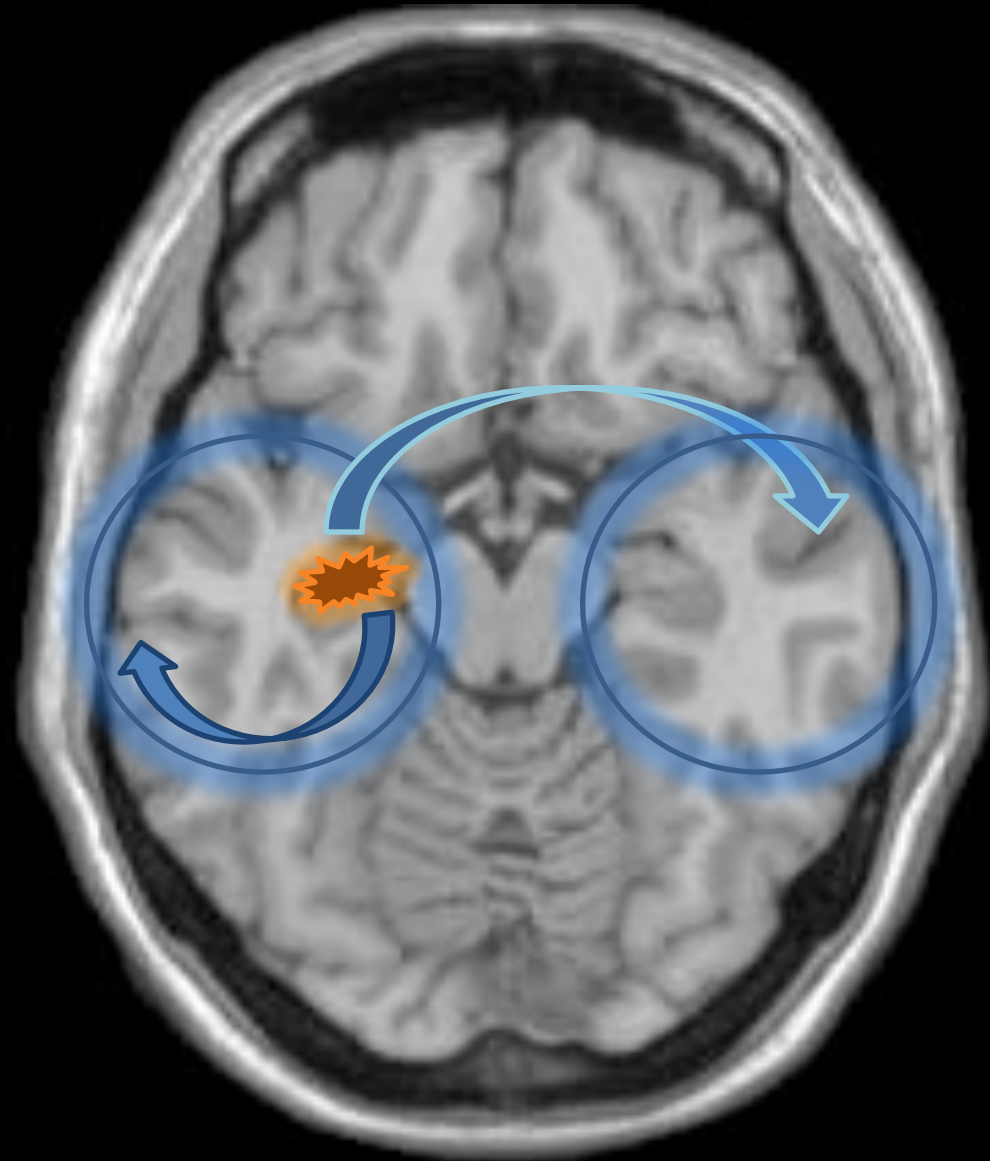
- Originate at some point within and rapidly engage bilaterally distributed networks





## Focal seizures

- Originate within networks limited to one hemisphere





**Focal Onset**

<b>Aware</b>	<b>Impaired Awareness</b>
--------------	---------------------------

**Motor**  
**Non-Motor**

**focal to bilateral tonic-clonic**

**Generalized Onset**

**Motor**  
Tonic-clonic  
Other motor  
**Non-Motor (Absence)**

**Unknown Onset**

**Motor**  
Tonic-clonic  
Other motor  
**Non-Motor**

# Seizure types

Focal  
onset

Generalized  
onset

Unknown  
onset

## Focal Onset

Aware

Impaired  
Awareness

### Motor Onset

automatisms  
atonic  
clonic  
epileptic spasms  
hyperkinetic  
myoclonic  
tonic

### Non-Motor Onset

autonomic  
behavior arrest  
cognitive  
emotional  
sensory

focal to bilateral tonic-clonic

## Generalized Onset

### Motor

tonic-clonic  
clonic  
tonic  
myoclonic  
myoclonic-tonic-clonic  
myoclonic-atonic  
atonic  
epileptic spasms

### Non-Motor (absence)

typical  
atypical  
myoclonic  
eyelid myoclonia

## Unknown Onset

### Motor

tonic-clonic  
epileptic spasms

### Non-Motor

behavior arrest

# Terms no longer in use

- Complex partial
- Simple partial
- Partial
- Psychic
- Dyscognitive
- Secondarily generalized tonic-clonic



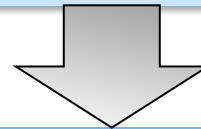
**FINDING**  
SNOMED  
International

### Seizure types

Focal  
onset

Generalized  
onset

Unknown  
onset



**DISORDER**  
SNOMED  
International

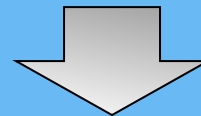
### Epilepsy types

Focal

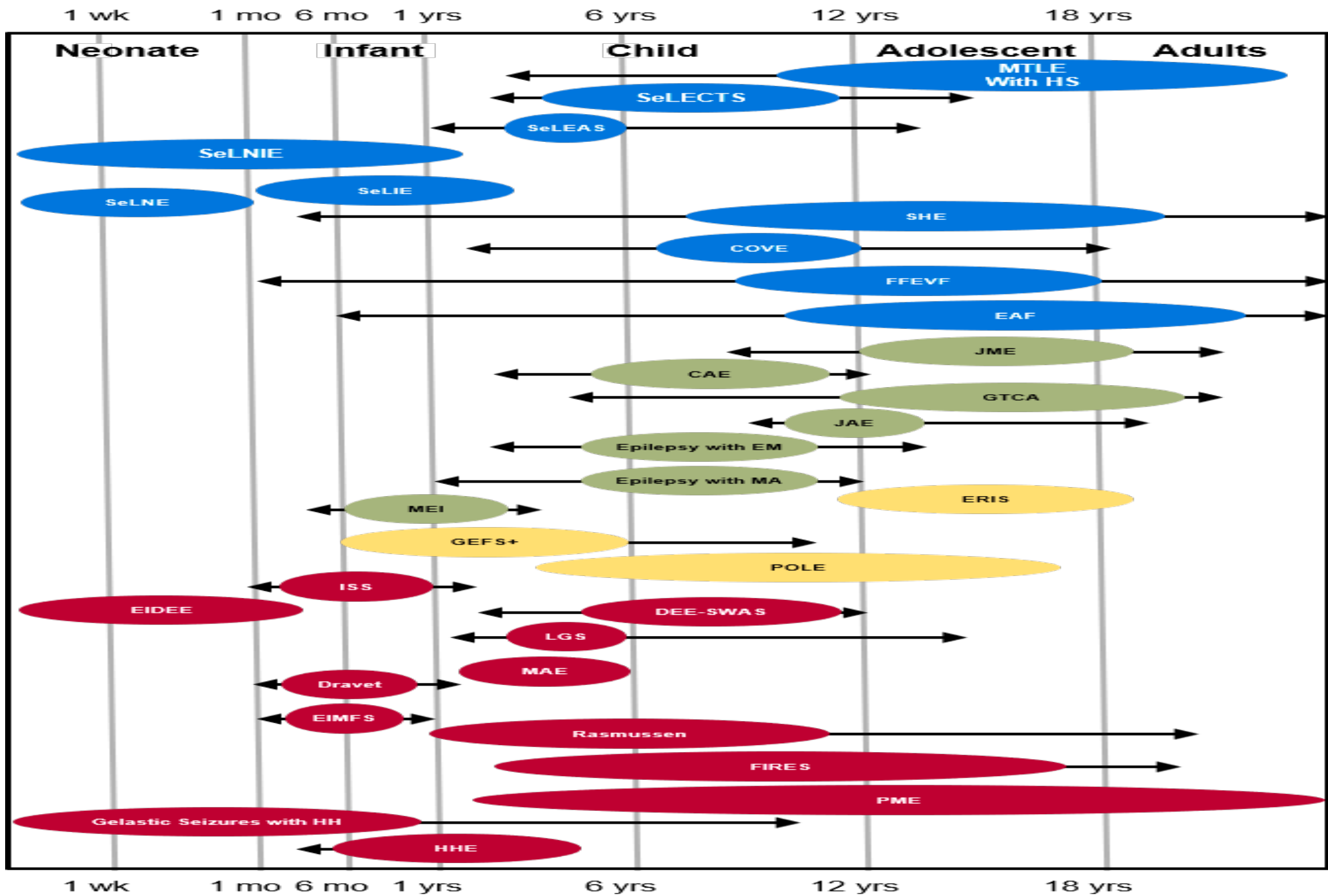
Generalized

Combined  
Generalized  
& Focal

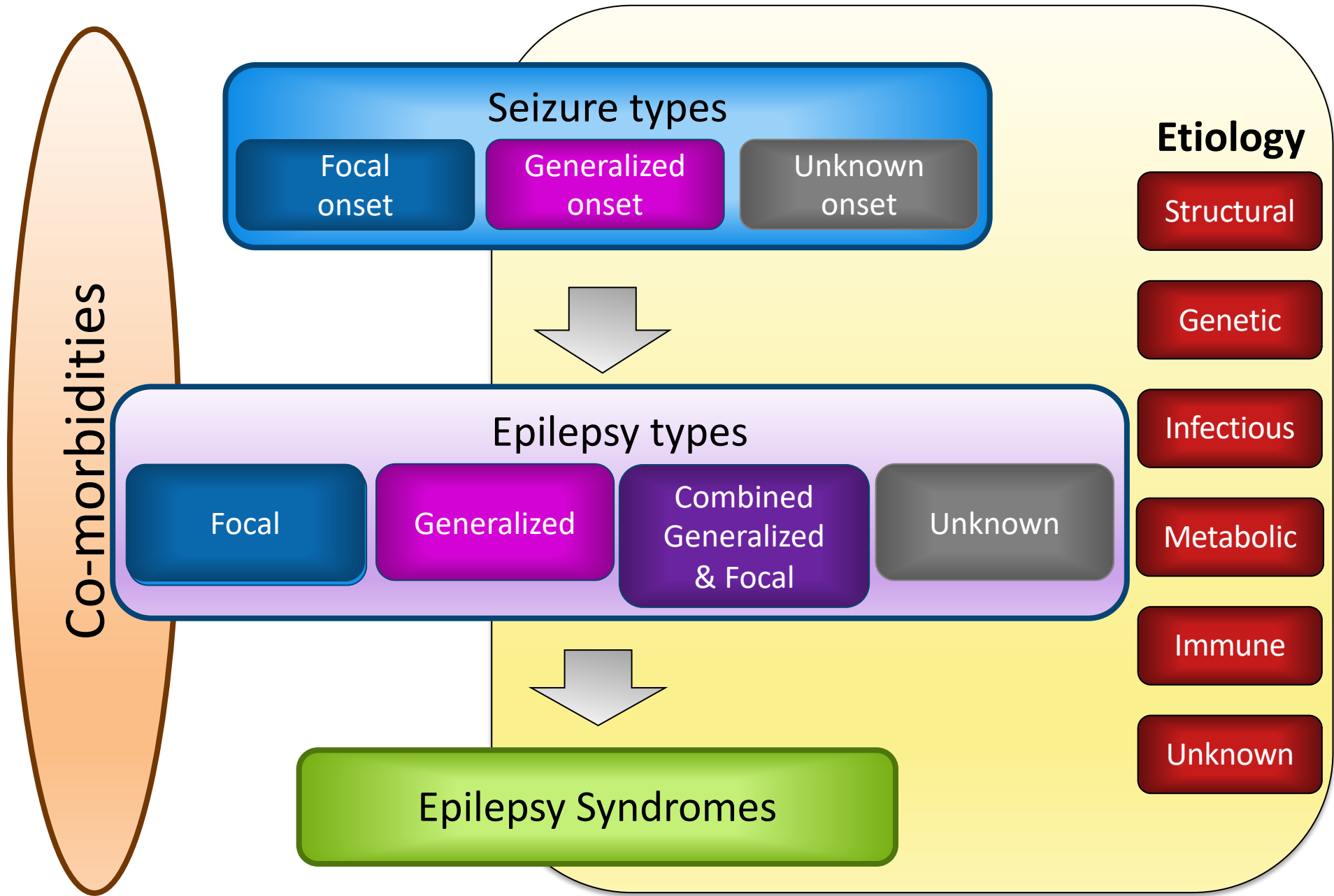
Unknown



Epilepsy Syndromes



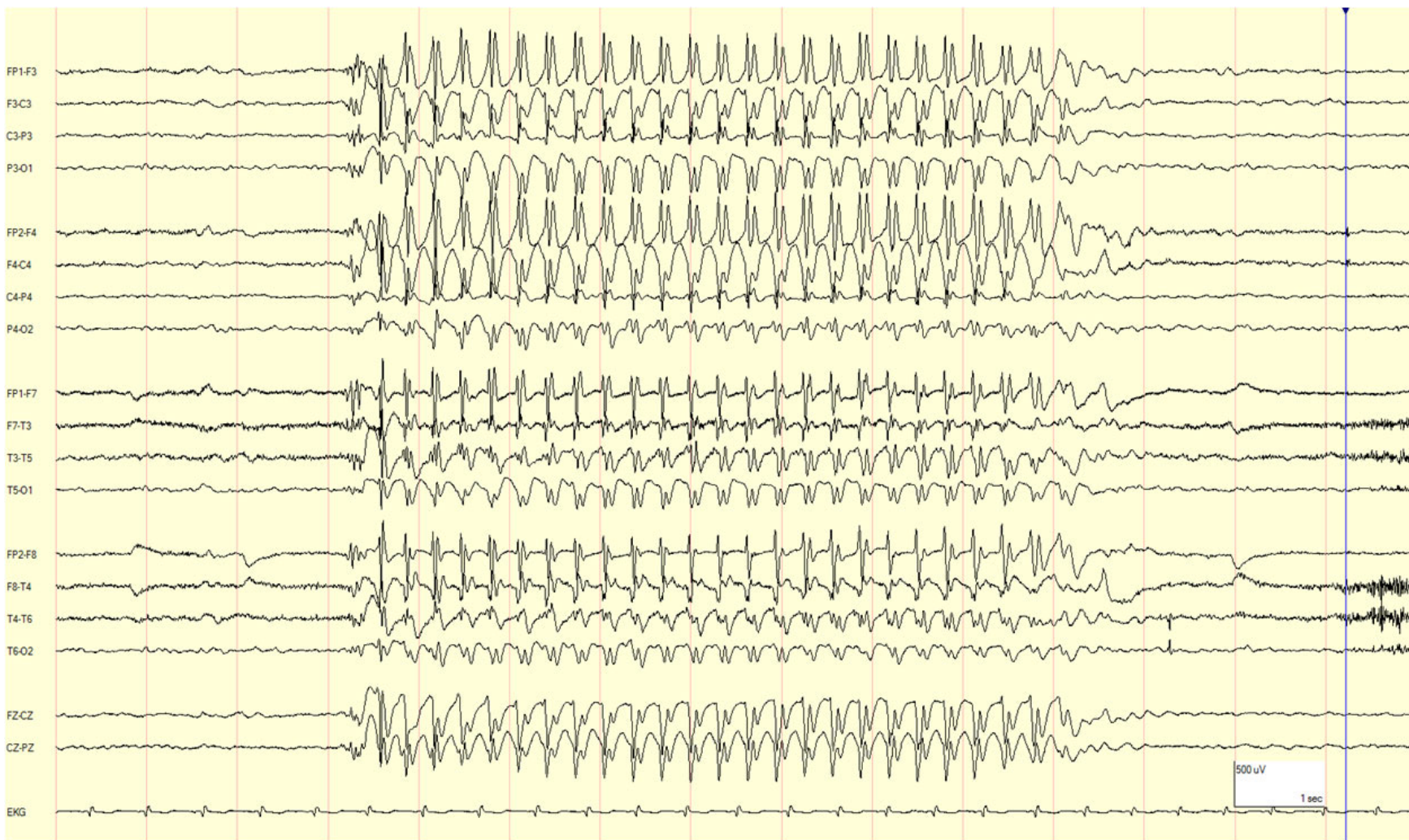




# Julie – 2 years old

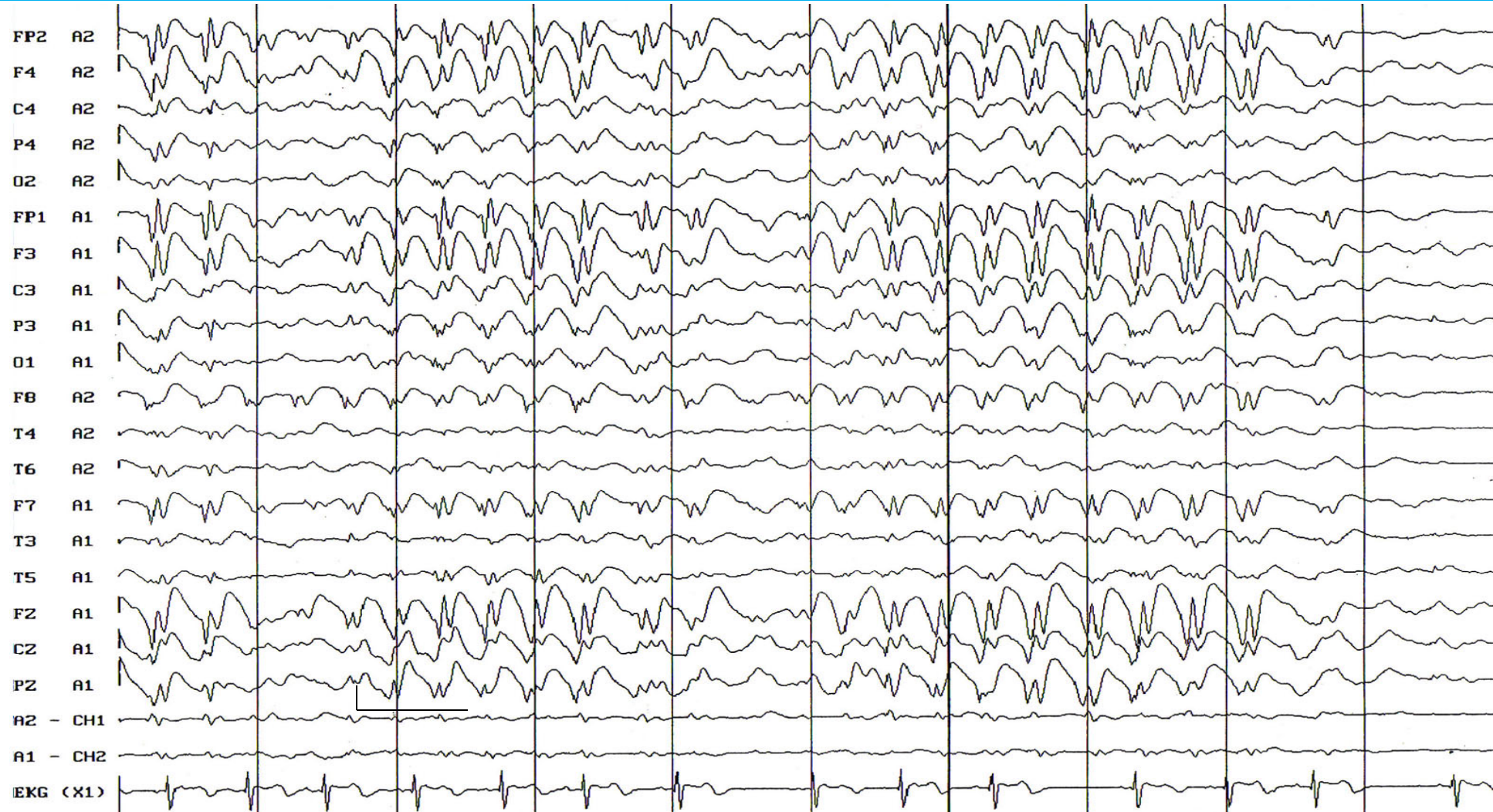
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# Julie – 2 years old



Julie – 8 years old

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Julie – 8 years old

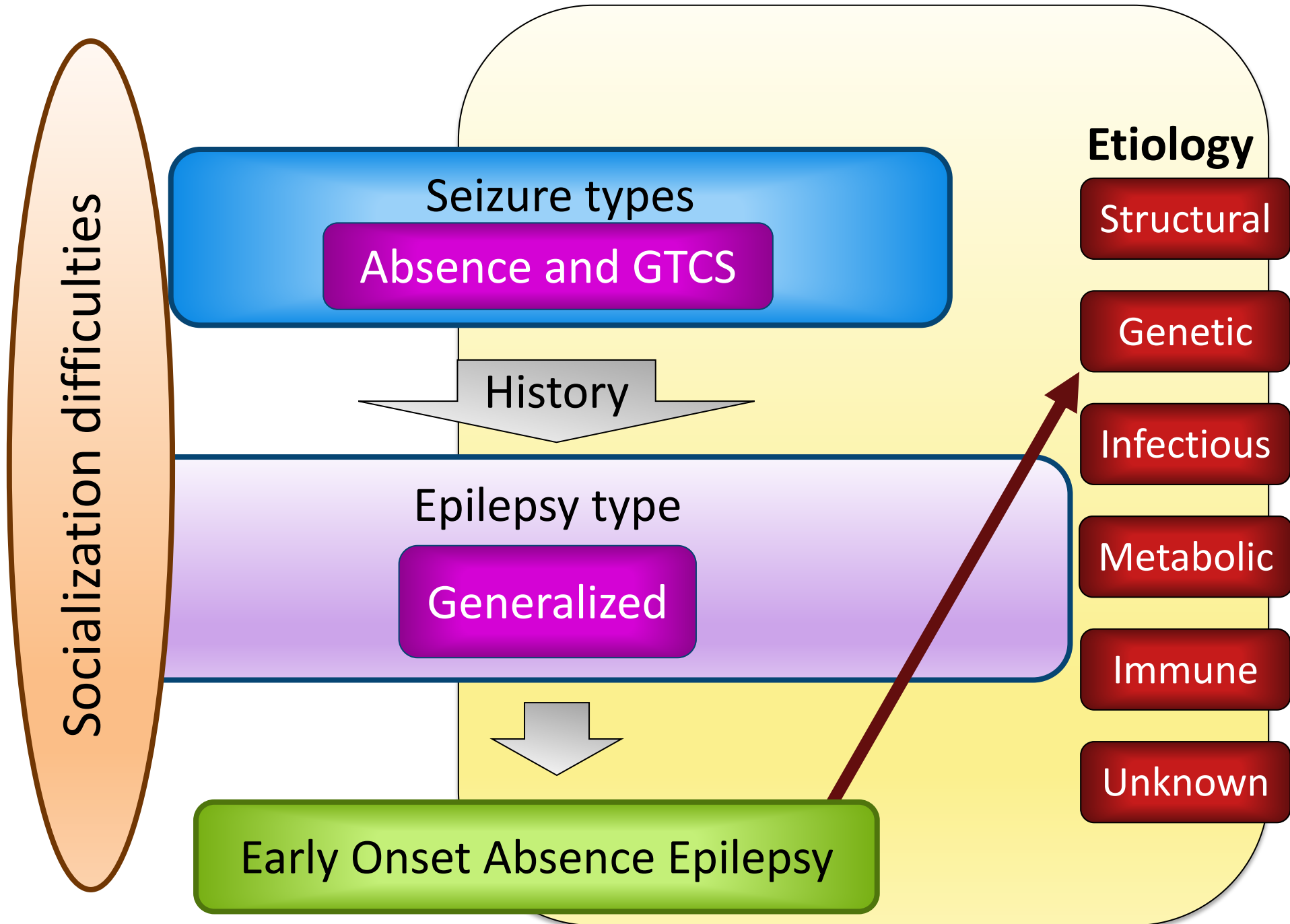
Seizure type

Typical Absence and GTCS

# Julie – 12 years old

- Seizures
  - 2 years: infrequent typical brief absence seizures
  - 8 years: Absence status and GTCS
- Normal development and examination
- No family history
- EEG – generalised spike wave and polyspike wave
- MRI - normal





Socialization difficulties

Seizure types

Absence and GTCS

History

Epilepsy type

Generalized

**Etiology**

Structural

Genetic

Infectious

Metabolic

Immune

Unknown

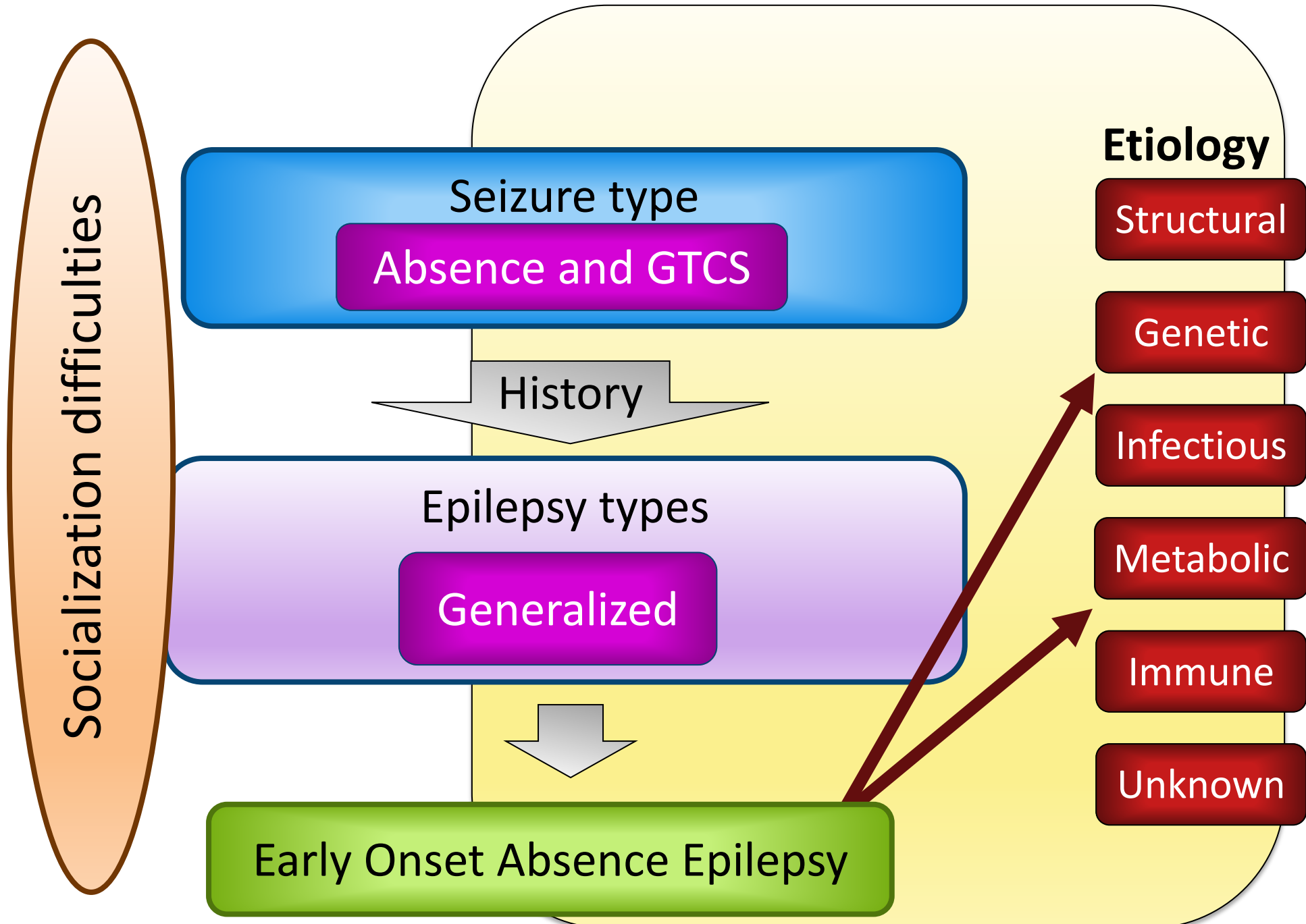
Early Onset Absence Epilepsy

Julie – 8 years old

*SLC2A1* pathogenic variant

GLUT1 deficiency

Precision therapy: Ketogenic diet



Socialization difficulties

Seizure type

Absence and GTCS

History

Epilepsy types

Generalized

Early Onset Absence Epilepsy

**Etiology**

Structural

Genetic

Infectious

Metabolic

Immune

Unknown

# Rationale for evolution of terminology and concepts

## ABSENCE SEIZURES

# Seizure types

Focal  
onset

Generalized  
onset

Unknown  
onset

## Focal Onset

Aware

Impaired  
Awareness

### Motor Onset

automatisms  
atonic  
clonic  
epileptic spasms  
hyperkinetic  
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focal to bilateral tonic-clonic

## Generalized Onset

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eyelid myoclonia

## Unknown Onset

### Motor

tonic-clonic  
epileptic spasms

### Non-Motor

behavior arrest

# ABSENCE SEIZURES

Observation of  
events

**1705:** Poupart published first description

**1815:** Esquirol introduced “Petit Mal”

**1824:** Calmeil used “absence”

EEG

**1933:** Berger described 3 hz spike and wave

# ABSENCE SEIZURES

Prior to 1963

Petit Mal

Petit Mal Variant

# ABSENCE SEIZURES

1964

Petit Mal (typical absence)

Petit Mal Variant (atypical absence)



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EEG

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Video-telemetry  
monitoring

**1969, 1975** Penry; **1974** Browne; **1981** Stefan: described semiology in detail

# ABSENCE SEIZURES

## 1970 Classification

SIMPLE ABSENCES

COMPLEX ABSENCES

+ mild clonic  
components

+ increased  
tone

+ decreased  
tone

+  
automatisms

+ autonomic  
phenomena

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automatisms

+ autonomic  
phenomena

## 1981 Classification

ABSENCE SEIZURES

+ mild clonic  
movements

+ tonic  
components

+ atonic  
components

+  
automatisms

+ autonomic  
components

ATYPICAL ABSENCE  
SEIZURES

# ABSENCE SEIZURES

Observation of  
events

**1705:** Poupart published first description  
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EEG

**1933:** Berger described 3 hz spike and wave

Video-telemetry  
monitoring

**1969, 1975** Penry; **1974** Browne; **1981** Stefan: described  
semiology in detail

Video-EEG

**1987** Holmes; **1989** Panayiotopoulos; **1994** Hirsch; **2001**  
Capovilla; **2006** Sadleir: described relevance of  
semiological features

# ABSENCE SEIZURES

## 1970 Classification

SIMPLE ABSENCES

COMPLEX ABSENCES

+ mild clonic components

+ increased tone

+ decreased tone

+ automatisms

+ autonomic phenomena

## 1981 Classification

ABSENCE SEIZURES

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+ tonic components

+ atonic components

+ automatisms

+ autonomic components

ATYPICAL ABSENCE SEIZURES

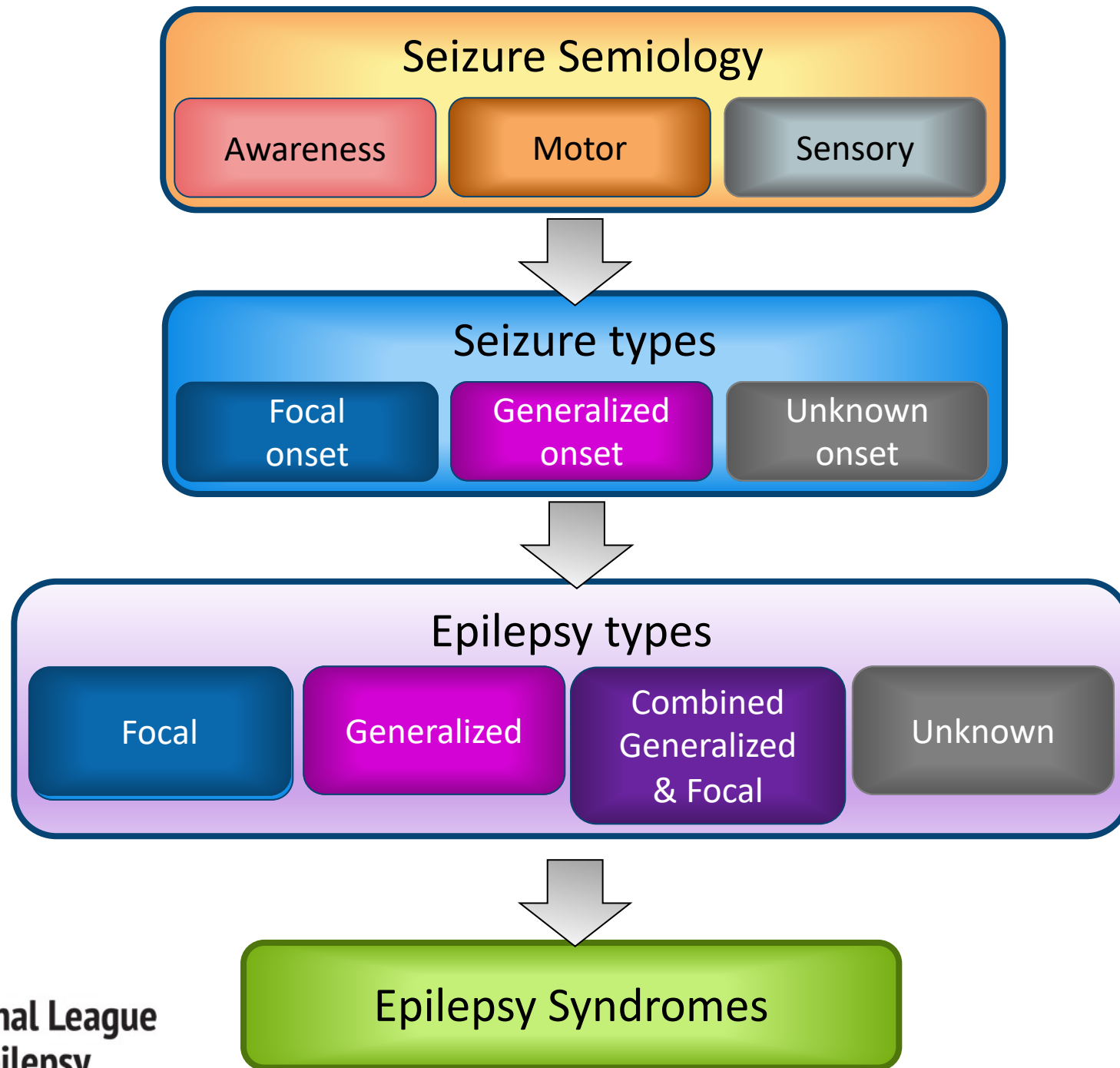
## 2017 Classification

TYPICAL ABSENCE SEIZURES

MYOCLONIC ABSENCE

ABSENCE WITH EYELID MYOCLONIA

ATYPICAL ABSENCE SEIZURES



# Automatisms

“A more or less coordinated repetitive motor activity usually occurring when cognition is impaired and for which the subject is amnesic afterwards”

## Common

- Up to 63% of absence seizures
- Up to 100% of children.
- Up to 67% of children have automatism in every seizure

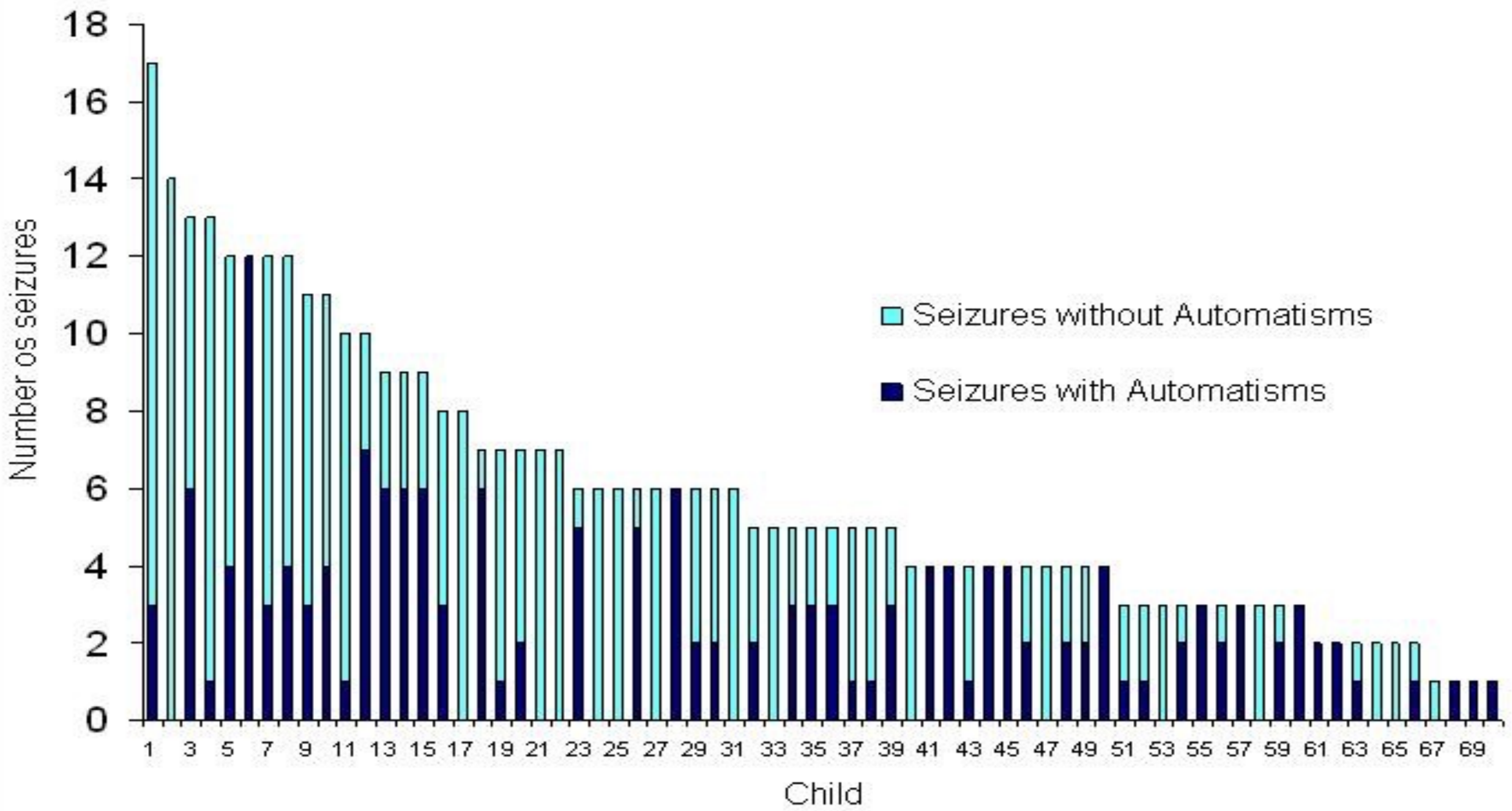
# Absence video-EEG study

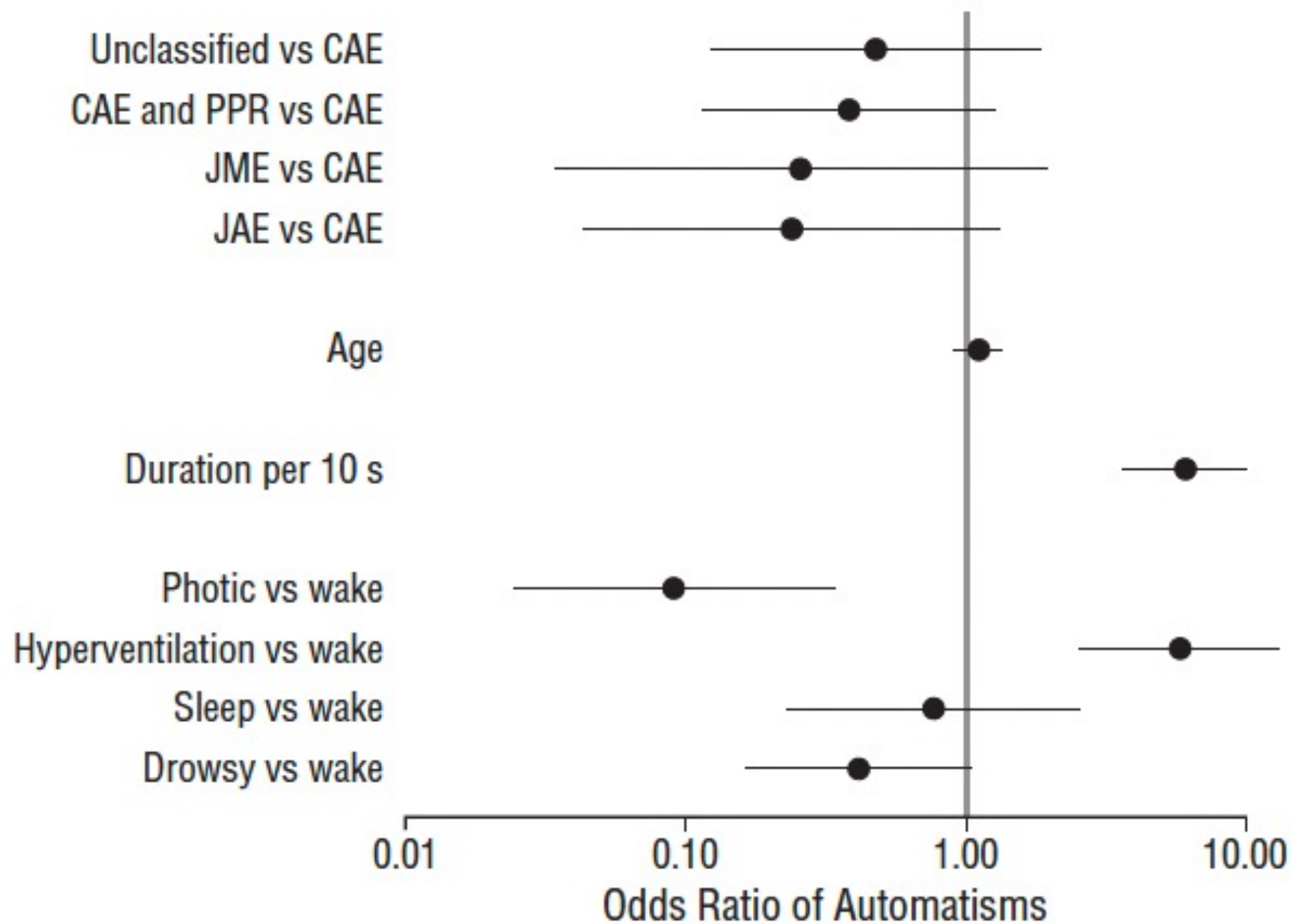
- New onset absence seizures
- 70 children (1 to 16 years)
- Syndromes: Childhood Absence Epilepsy, Juvenile Absence Epilepsy, Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy
- 509 absence seizures
- States: Awake, drowsy and sleep
- Provocation: Photic stimulation, Hyperventilation

Sadleir et al.

Archives of Neurology 2009







# ABSENCE SEIZURES

## 1970 Classification

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COMPLEX ABSENCES

+ mild clonic components

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ATYPICAL ABSENCE SEIZURES

## 2017 Classification

TYPICAL ABSENCE SEIZURES

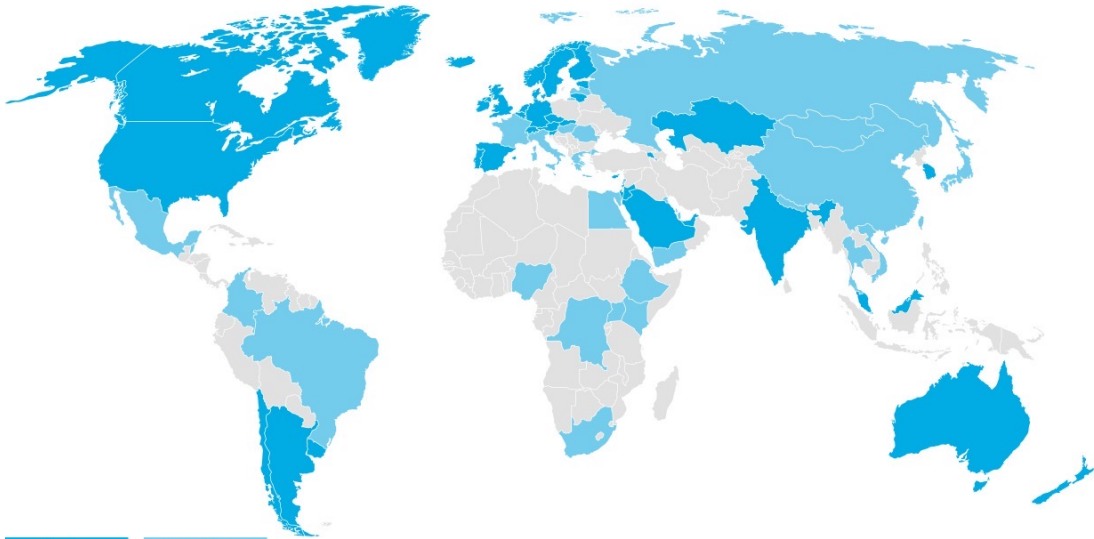
MYOCLONIC ABSENCE

ABSENCE WITH EYELID MYOCLONIA

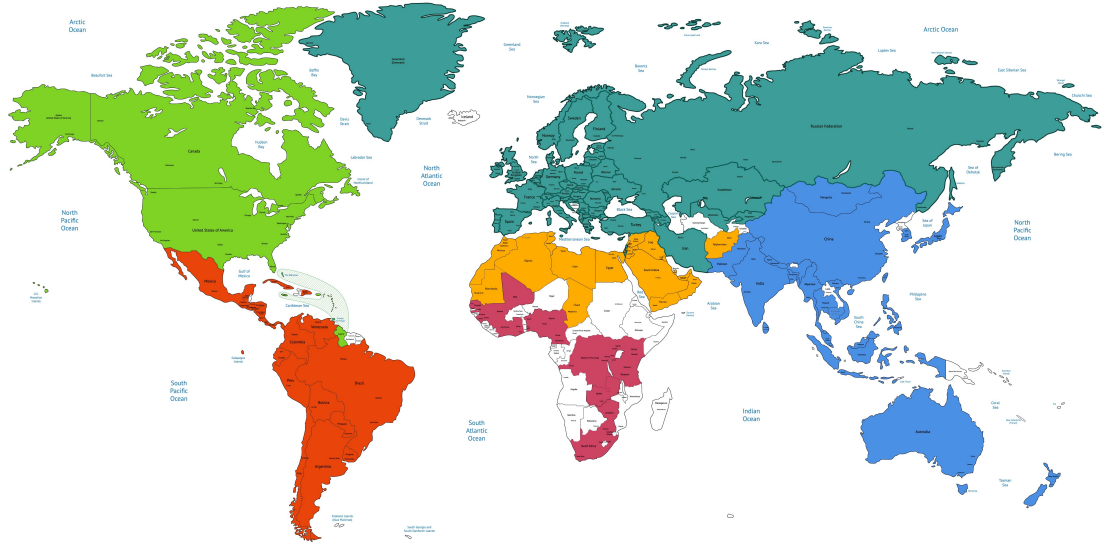
ATYPICAL ABSENCE SEIZURES



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terminology, worldwide



Goal is to enhance the content related to seizures and epilepsy in SNOMED CT to ensure clinicians have the latest evidence-based content available to them for point of care recording.



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## Plan:

- Add new seizure type and epilepsy syndromes terminology
- Inactivate seizure and epilepsy terminology which is outdated and not helpful
- Organise seizure and epilepsy terminology relationships in a conceptual way which makes sense with our present understanding of seizures and epilepsy

# EPILEPSY and SNOMED

- Epilepsy is a group of disorders (syndromes) defined predominantly (but not only) by seizure types
- 2017, 2020, 2022: ILAE introduced new concepts and terminology
- Changes reflect advances in understanding and use understandable words
- SNOMED ILAE collaboration will add new terminology, inactivate unhelpful terminology, realign terminology in SNOMED





