

Exercise and sport do not trigger seizures in children and adolescents with epilepsy in school settings

Exercício e esporte não desencadeiam crises em crianças e adolescentes com epilepsia em ambientes escolares

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Dear Editor,

Recently, a study¹ has claimed that children and teenagers who suffer from epilepsy may experience prolonged seizures while exercising or practicing any sport. People with epilepsy are at higher risk of sudden death than healthy subjects², and participation in sports/exercise, in rare cases, can trigger seizures³. However, the bulk of scientific evidence indicates that exercise and sports should be encouraged for everyone with epilepsy, children and teenagers included. Previous studies have shown the positive effects of exercise, such as a decrease in seizure frequency, cardiovascular

status improvement, and increase in life quality, self-esteem, and well-being³.

Despite the benefits of physical activity, people with epilepsy, unfortunately, often are advised against participating in sports and exercise, mostly because of fear, overprotection, and lack of knowledge about the disease^{3,4,5}.

Thus, schools and educational institutions need to plan educational programs, targeting health professionals, family members, caregivers, students, teachers, and school employees, in order to improve their knowledge about exercise and epilepsy and provide appropriate care and assistance to students with epilepsy.

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