

Since the original topiramate studies were performed a decade ago, it is unknown whether, or to what extent, the standard antiepileptic drugs are effective in modern-day treatment-resistant patients. Thus, equal improvement in both groups could represent an equal placebo effect in both arms. Moreover, many of the patients, although not currently receiving topiramate, may have failed it in the past, possibly handicapping the comparator. Selecting an appropriate dose and titration schedule would also be an issue.

As noted in our article, it is critical to understand the mode of use of a new drug, which commonly emerges during phase II and III clinical trials, before designing a comparative trial with a

standard drug. When it comes to new drug testing, we need to learn how to crawl before we can walk.

Jacqueline A. French, New York, NY; John D. England, New Orleans, LA

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CORRECTION

Decreased serum BDNF levels in patients with epileptic and psychogenic nonepileptic seizures

In the article “Decreased serum BDNF levels in patients with epileptic and psychogenic nonepileptic seizures” by W.C. LaFrance, Jr., et al. (*Neurology*® 2010;75:1285–1291), the authors found that patient samples were collected in lavender-top EDTA plasma tubes, rather than red-top serum tubes. The authors reviewed the literature^{1–4} to examine whether this would impact the findings and concluded that use of plasma does not compromise the results. For more accurate reporting and for any attempt to replicate the experiment, all references in the article to “serum BDNF” should read: “plasma BDNF.” The authors regret the error.

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