

**ABSTRACTS OF FREE PAPERS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS –
CLINICAL EPILEPTOLOGY**

**The prevalence of epilepsy in a rural district of
Vietnam: A population-based study from the
EPIBAVI Project**

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Objective: Epidemiological studies of epilepsy from developing countries are scarce. We have therefore initiated a population-based epidemiological project in Vietnam, EPIBAVI, with the overall objective to determine the incidence and prevalence of seizures and epilepsy in a representative region of the country. This is a first report on the prevalence of active epilepsy in people 1 year or older in a rural district of Vietnam.

Methods: A field survey was carried out in the Bavi District in northern Vietnam between January and December 2005, when members of approximately 13 000 households were screened using a WHO screening questionnaire for seizure disorders. A clinical examination of all screened positive was performed by a neurologist to verify the epilepsy diagnosis, and all epilepsy cases were offered an EEG.

Results: Out of 47,269 screened, 1,338 (2.8%) had a positive response to the questionnaire. Of these, 206 fulfilled the criteria for active epilepsy after clinical examination, yielding a prevalence of 4.4 per 1000 (95%CI 3.8-5.0), higher among males (5.1) than females (3.7), among those with lower compared with higher education and among single compared with those married. EEG revealed epileptiform activity in 11% of the cases. Only 13 cases (6.3%) fulfilled criteria for idiopathic epilepsy, 62 (30.1%) were considered symptomatic of which one was progressive. The majority, 132 cases (64.1%) were considered cryptogenic. Only 20.6% were seizure free the year before the examination.

Conclusion: The prevalence of active epilepsy in Vietnam is similar to some other Asian countries but lower than in developing countries from Africa and South America.^{1,2}

References

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This paper was awarded the Tadokoro Prize, Best Platform Presentation, 2nd Prize.