



ABSTRACTS: VOLUME 3, SPECIAL ISSUE

ABSTRACT

Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS); New hope to predict and Control Seizures

Marah Issa Mohamamad¹, Dr. Maisa Nabulsi².

¹ *Faculty of Pharmacy, Al-Quds University, Bethlehem, Palestine.*

² *Faculty of Pharmacy, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, Palestine.*

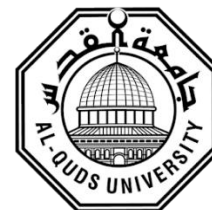
Published in May 2022

Background: Epilepsy is a neurological disorder. Epileptic seizures can be controlled by medications. Drug-resistant epilepsy occurs when a patient has failed to become and stay seizure free with adequate trials of two medications. Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS) modern treatment option for drug resistance epilepsy.

Objectives:

- 1- To assess Pharmacists' knowledge about drug-resistant epilepsy and the most frequently prescribed anti-epileptic medications.
- 2- To explore the possibility of supporting the application of VNS device in Palestinian hospitals.

Methods: A set of participants (n=100) completed the google form-based questionnaires during February -March 2022. The sample composed of responsible pharmacists working in private and public sector in Bethlehem.



Results: According to the pharmacists, Carbamazepine is the most widely prescribed antiepileptic medication (86%) followed by valproic acid (77%) then gabapentin (72%). About 42% of the participants had prior knowledge of drug-resistant epilepsy, while a percentage of 35% knew various treatment methods for drug resistant epilepsy. About half of the sample, previously had knowledge of pharmacists about VNS device. As for the application VNS device in Palestinian hospitals, 59% of them supported it, 23% doubted its effectiveness, and only 18% refused to apply it. Conclusion Although drug-resistant epilepsy affects approximately 25% of patients, pharmacists' knowledge about it, is quite insufficient. Moreover, there is a lack of knowledge about non-pharmacological suggestions like brain surgery, keto diets, and devices for predicting seizures. More than half of the participants are aware of the device and largely support its, application in the Palestinian health sectors. It should be notices that providing the VNS device in the Palestinian hospitals is essential for a safe and risk free life for the patients.

Research Keywords: Drug resistant epilepsy, uncontrolled seizures, brain stimulation device, VNS, Pharmacists, Bethlehem.