Article type : Letter

Response to the numbering of seizure types

We thank the authors for their kind attention to the 2017 ILAE seizure type classification. Our target audience comprised general clinicians, patients with epilepsy and the public (for the basic classification) and neurologists, epileptologists and researchers (for the expanded classification). To keep the classification usable for this audience, the Classification Task Force chose only to abbreviate the most important seizure types, for example, FAS for focal aware seizure and FIAS for focal impaired awareness seizure. We have no objection to the suggested numbering system for use by specialized groups using the computerized SCORE system.

The question of negative myoclonus was not extensively discussed by our Task Force. The 2017 classification is not comprehensive and it omits mention of a number of seizure types. Distinction of negative myoclonus seizures from focal or generalized atonic seizures can be difficult. Diagnosis is confounded by non-epileptic negative myoclonus in the form of asterixis. Despite these diagnostic issues, it would be acceptable to indicate that myoclonic seizures can either have positive or negative manifestations. Future research about this entity may clarify where negative myoclonus best fits into a classification.

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This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as [doi: 10.1111/epi.13800](https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.13800)

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We confirm that we have read the Journal's position on issues involved in ethical publication and affirm that this report is consistent with those guidelines.'

Disclosures relevant to classification: Dr. Fisher has stock options from Avails Pharmaceuticals, Cerebral Therapeutics, Applied Neurometrics, Zeto, SmartMonitor and research grants from Medtronic. J. A. French discloses support via The Epilepsy Study Consortium, which pays Dr French's university employer for her consultant time related to Acorda, Alexza, Anavex, BioPharm Solutions, Concert, Eisai, Georgia Regents University, GW Pharma, Marathon, Marinus, Neurelis, Novartis, Pfizer, Pfizer-Neusentis, Pronutria, Roivant, Sage, SciFluor, SK Life Sciences, Takeda, Turing, UCB Inc., Ultragenyx, Upsher Smith, Xenon Pharmaceuticals, Zynerba grants and research from Acorda, Alexza, LCGH, Eisai Medical Research, Lundbeck, Pfizer, SK life sciences, UCB, Upsher-Smith, Vertex, grants from NINDS, Epilepsy Therapy Project, Epilepsy Research Foundation, Epilepsy Study Consortium; She is on the editorial board of Lancet Neurology, Neurology Today and Epileptic disorders, and was an Associate Editor of Epilepsia, for which she received a fee. Dr. Moshé receives from Elsevier an annual compensation for his work as Associate Editor in Neurobiology of Disease and royalties from 2 books he co-edited. He received a consultant's fee from Lundbeck, Eisai and UCB. The remaining authors listed no disclosures relevant to the classification of seizure types.

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Title:

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Date:

2017-07-01

Citation:

Fisher, R. S., Cross, J. H., D'Souza, C., French, J. A., Haut, S., Higurashi, N., Hirsch, E., Jansen, F. E., Lagae, L., Moshe, S. L., Korey, S. R., Purpura, D. P., Peltola, J., Roulet Perez, E., Scheffer, I. E., Schulze-Bonhage, A., Somerville, E., Sperling, M., Yacubian, E. M. & Zuberi, S. M. (2017). Response to the numbering of seizure types. *EPILEPSIA*, 58 (7), pp.1300-1301. <https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.13800>.

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