

Recommendations for treatment strategies in people with epilepsy during times of shortage of antiseizure medications

Ali A. Asadi-Pooya¹, Archana A. Patel², Eugen Trinka³,
Maria Mazurkiewicz-Beldzinska⁴, J. Helen Cross⁵, Timothy
E. Welty⁶, for the ILAE Emergency Task Force

¹ Epilepsy Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran; Department of Neurology, Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

² Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Department of Neurology, Division of Epilepsy & Clinical Neurophysiology, Boston, MA, USA

³ Department of Neurology, Christian-Doppler Medical Centre, Paracelsus Medical University, Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience Salzburg, Member of the European Reference Network, EpiCARE, Salzburg, Austria; Department of Public Health, Health Services Research and Health Technology Assessment, UMIT – University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology, Hall in Tirol, Austria; Karl-Landsteiner Institute for Neurorehabilitation and Space Neurology, Salzburg, Austria; Neuroscience Institute, Christian-Doppler Medical Centre, Paracelsus Medical University, Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience Salzburg, Austria

⁴ Department of Developmental Neurology, Chair of Neurology, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland

⁵ UCL NIHR BRC Great Ormond St Institute of Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London & Young Epilepsy, UK

⁶ Department of Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, USA

- During times of shortage of ASMs, switching between different ASMs can occasionally be considered as a mitigation procedure.
 - Oxcarbazepine/ carbamazepine
 - Eslicarbazepine acetate/ oxcarbazepine/ carbamazepine
 - Clobazam/ clonazepam
 - Brivaracetam/ levetiracetam
 - Primidone/ Phenobarbital

- Switching from brand to generic or between generic ASM products has often been shown to be safe and effective, if required.

- Finally, when supplies of benzodiazepines or equipment to administer medications intravenously are not available, rectal administration of some ASMs may be an emergency alternative route for treating serial seizures and status epilepticus.