

The future is now: pediatric neuropsychological presurgical epilepsy evaluation in the age of COVID-19

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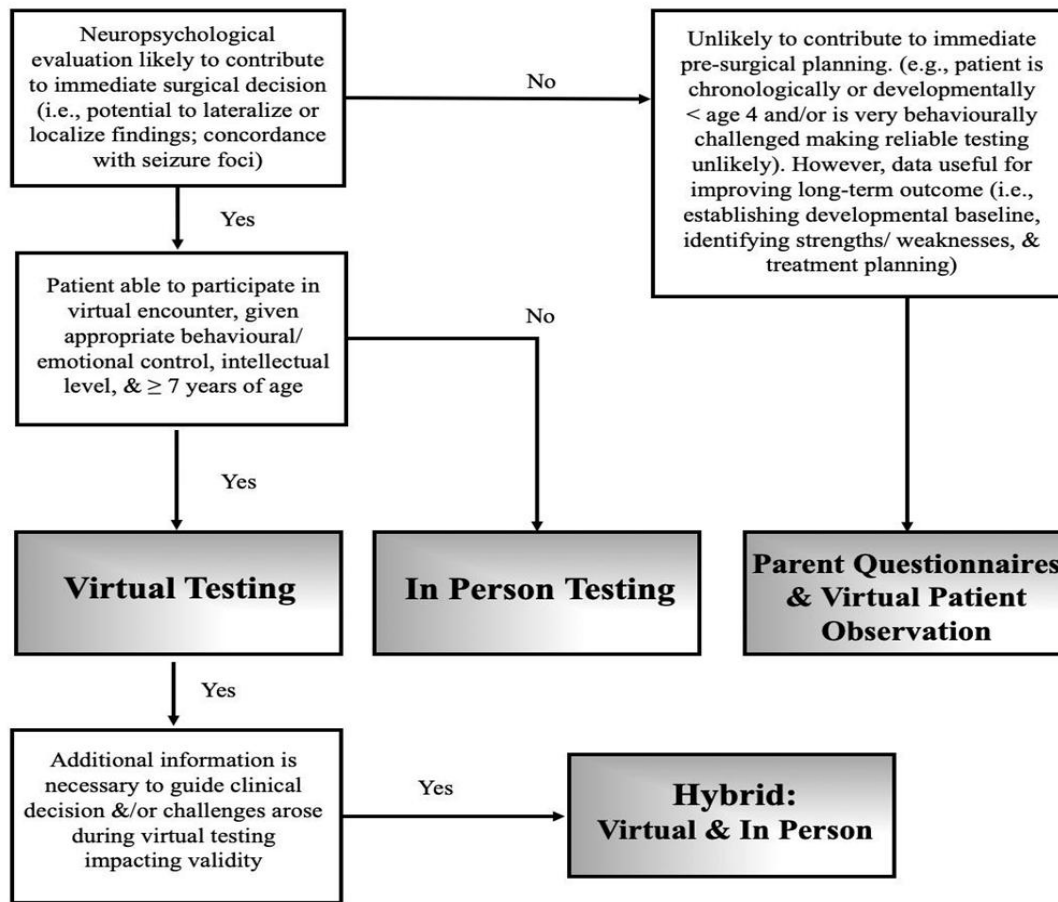
Rationale

- Neuropsychological evaluation is an essential component of the multidisciplinary presurgical assessment for epilepsy patients.
- Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, many in-person presurgical evaluations were temporarily halted, delaying life-altering epilepsy surgeries.
- Teleneuropsychology offers an opportunity to gather important presurgical data while protecting patients and healthcare providers from infection .

Purpose

We propose models of assessment which prioritize teleneuropsychology when possible to reduce the risk of infection:

1. Evaluation with directly administered tests through a completely virtual format;
2. Virtual/in-person hybrid evaluation; and,
3. Clinical observation/interview in a virtual format supplemented by survey data.



Conclusions

- Teleneuropsychology is a viable alternative or supplement to in-person presurgical neuropsychological evaluations for a variety of children with intractable epilepsy.
- More research must be conducted on the validity of teleneuropsychology as well as to address socioeconomic considerations.