



Harmful and Disruptive Behavior in Epilepsy

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Disclosure

- None



Learning Objectives

Participants should be able to:

- 1) Identify and classify** disruptive behaviors in individuals with disabilities and epilepsy.
- 2) Formulate a treatment plan** including non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic options for disruptive behaviors.
- 3) Recommend and utilize tools** provided today for community resources and supports for their patients.



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3

Preview

- 1) Family/Caregiver Perspective
- 2) Assessing Behaviors
- 3) Behavioral Approaches and CAM
- 4) Pharmacologic Approaches
- 5) Case Studies
- 6) Practical Application and Resources



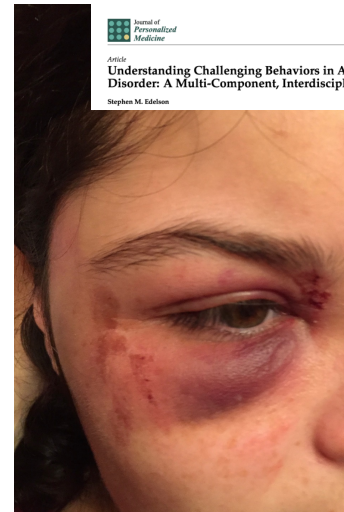
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4

What are Harmful/Disruptive Behaviors?

Actions that may pose a risk to the individual or others or significantly interferes with daily function or social interactions. (Edelson SM, 2022) Such as:

- **Self-injurious behavior** (head banging, biting, hair pulling)
- **Aggression** (kicking, hitting, property destruction)
- **Elopement** (wandering)
- **Tantrums**
- **Repetitive or obsessive behaviors**
- **Refusal to cooperate** (flopping)
- **Pica**



Journal of
Personalized
Medicine

MDPI

Article
Understanding Challenging Behaviors in Autism Spectrum
Disorder: A Multi-Component, Interdisciplinary Model
Stephen M. Edelson

Permission obtained for use of this patient image



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5

Personal Experience

- Jack is a 10-year-old male with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome presenting with increased seizure frequency and new behavior of biting his hands to the point of bleeding.
- He is here with his parents and BCBA and he is described to have "no function associated with his behavior".
- His medications have not been changed for over 3 months and he has not gained weight.
- Episodes of biting occur daily and last about 20 minutes with associated agitation.
- On careful examination, he has a huge obvious abscess on one of his molars.
- After treatment by his dentist, he has resolution of the biting and seizures return to baseline frequency.



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6

Take Aways

- Engage your team – **family/school/BCBA therapist** for information to inform treatment.
- Understand the **function of the behavior!**
- Exclude medical causes ... **medical causes** ... medical causes.
- You are **more than capable** and equipped to treat these families more holistically.
- You have help through resources like those provided by **CNF and others.**



CNF Mission

To improve the care experiences of children living with neurologic conditions by



building meaningful connections between families and medical professionals

AND

serving as a collaborative center of education, support, and care advancement.



Who CNF Serves



Children &
Family members



Medical
professionals



Researchers

We are the only national organization to serve all children and families affected by neurologic disorders and the medical professionals who support them.



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CNF Community



14 million
children live with a
neurologic condition
(USA)



Thousands
of rare and
ultra-rare diagnoses
with neurologic components



<3,000
pediatric
neurologists

*Source: Federal Interagency Forum on
Child and Family Statistics, 2023



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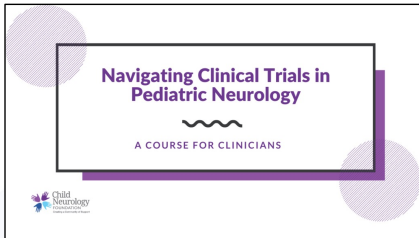
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Resources

childneurologyfoundation.org/tools-resources

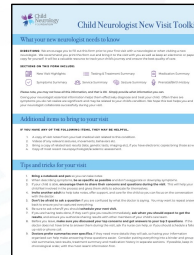


Free CME Course for Clinicians



[childneurologyfoundation.org/
cnf-learning-portal/](https://childneurologyfoundation.org/cnf-learning-portal/)

Patient Forms



[childneurologyfoundation.org/
child-neurologist-new-visit-toolkit/](https://childneurologyfoundation.org/child-neurologist-new-visit-toolkit/)



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11

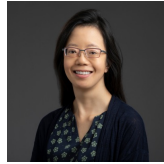
Speakers



Mark Carroll
Parent of a child living with medical complexities



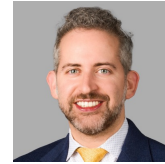
Madeline Chadehumbe, MD
NeurAbilities Healthcare



Nan Lin, MD
Cincinnati Children's



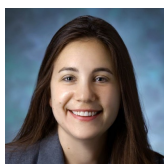
Tatiana Falcone, MD
Cleveland Clinic



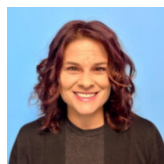
Lawrence E. Fried, MD, MBA
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



Kim Hindery
Child Neurology Foundation



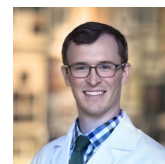
Sarah Kelley, MD
Johns Hopkins



Shelly Meitzler
TSC Alliance



Jay Salpekar, MD, FANPA
Kennedy Krieger Institute



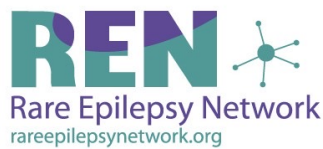
Robert Stowe, MD
Boston Children's Hospital



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12

Community Partners



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13

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evaluation**



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14



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