

COMPREHENSIVE CARE: Will We Ever Have it in Toronto?

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Comprehensive Care

- Comprehensive Care programs are programs in which a team of specialists tries to care for the whole person – not just to stop the seizures.
- Comprehensive Care programs are needed because many people with epilepsy have problems beyond just having seizures.

Co-Morbidities of Epilepsy

These problems are sometimes called the “co-morbidities of epilepsy”.

The co-morbidities are disorders that go along with epilepsy.

They *may* be more serious than the seizures themselves.

The Co-Morbidities of Epilepsy

Common co-morbidities include:

- Cognitive
 - Psychosocial / Psychiatric
 - Behavioural
 - Sleep
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An Example: Epilepsy & Psychiatric Problems

A recent study on adults with uncontrolled seizures and normal IQs reported that about 30% suffered from psychiatric disorders.

Epilepsy & Psychiatric Problems

The suicide rate in adults with seizures is five times higher than in the general adult population.

Co-morbidities of Epilepsy

□ In summary:

- Many people with epilepsy are dealing with much more than just seizures.
- They need help with a whole spectrum of problems.

Co-Morbidities & Treatment

Both in children and adults,
the co-morbidities of epilepsy are
responsive to therapy.

Unfortunately, these problems are
seldom diagnosed or treated.

Traditional therapy focuses on seizure
control and other problems are
neglected.

The Need for Comprehensive Care

- Some years ago in the United States, it was recognized that there was a need to treat the whole person – not just the seizures.
 - This recognition led to the creation of the U.S. Comprehensive Epilepsy Programs.
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What is Comprehensive Care?

- In the Comprehensive Epilepsy Centres, there is an attempt to treat the whole person, and not just the seizures.

 - There is a recognition of the co-morbidities.
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Who Gives Comprehensive Care?

- In Comprehensive Care Centres, the patient is treated not just by a neurologist, but by a *team* including:
 - Neurologists
 - Neurosurgeons
 - Psychologists
 - Psychiatrists
 - Social Workers
 - Nurses
 - Pharmacists
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Comprehensive Care May Actually Cost Less

- Better Use of Medical Resources
 - Fewer Complications
 - Better Chance for Employment
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Comprehensive Centres in the US

- If you lived in the US, you have your choice of over 100 Comprehensive Centres.
- If you lived in Minneapolis, you have your choice of 2.

Comprehensive Care in Canada

- If you live in Ontario, you have your choice of none.

Epilepsy Ontario

- Epilepsy Ontario has long been trying to bring full-scale Comprehensive Care to Ontario.
 - Taufik Valiante of the Toronto Western Hospital has designed a program and submitted it to the Toronto LHIN.
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Query

- Taufik: What's the state of your proposal?