Guest Editorial

Leading specialists review current developments in pediatrics.

Pediatric Seizures

Joseph R. Hageman, MD

In this issue of Pediatric Annals, we present three articles with the theme of pediatric seizures. Ana B. Chelse, MD, MS, and coauthors discuss the evaluation of seizures, how to distinguish them from other spells, and the rationale for proper evaluation and management of a first seizure in the pediatric population. Janet L. Patterson, MD, and coauthors extend this discussion into the more common presentation of simple and complex febrile seizures. Finally, Amy Francis, DO, and coauthors discuss epilepsy evaluation and management in children with autism spectrum disorder. Each of these articles is meant to provide the point of view of what the pediatrician in the office or the emergency room needs to know in order to evaluate whether a child has, in fact, had a seizure; the cause behind the seizure; management options; and how to counsel family members appropriately. Each article includes input from Kent Kelley, MD, a pediatric neurologist with special interest and expertise in epileptology. Sookyong Koh, MD, who is also a pediatric neurologist who performs basic science research in the etiologies of seizures, contributes her expertise to Dr. Chelse’s article. Michael Msall, MD, an expert in behavior-developmental pediatrics, contributes perspective in Dr. Francis’ article regarding relevant aspects of autism spectrum disorder and the effects of seizures and management on the functional outcome of these patients.

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About the Guest Editor

Joseph R. Hageman, MD, is a retired neonatologist and pediatric critical care physician at Evanston Hospital, NorthShore University HealthSystem, who is now the Director of Pediatric Resident Research at Comer Children’s Hospital at the University of Chicago. He is also a senior clinician educator in the Pritzker School of Medicine. Over the last 3 years, of the 62 residents who have completed their required resident research projects under Dr. Hageman, there have been 16 national presentations and 14 resident first-author publications.