

Fenfluramine seems effective for Lennox-Gastaut syndrome

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Among patients with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS), the percentage

reduction in the frequency of drop seizures is greater with fenfluramine versus placebo, according to a study published online May 2 in *JAMA Neurology*.

Kelly G. Knupp, M.D., from the Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora, and colleagues examined the efficacy and safety of fenfluramine in [patients](#) with LGS (aged 2 to 35 years) from 65 sites in North America, Europe, and Australia. Participants were randomly assigned to receive a 0.7- or 0.2-mg/kg/d dose of fenfluramine or placebo (87, 89, and 87 patients, respectively).

The researchers found that the median percentage reduction in frequency of drop seizures was 26.5, 14.2, and 7.6 percentage points in the groups receiving the 0.7- and 0.2-mg/kg/d dose of fenfluramine and placebo, respectively. The trial met its primary efficacy end point, with a –19.9 percentage point estimated median difference in drop seizures from baseline for the 0.7-mg/kg/d dose of fenfluramine versus placebo. More patients in the group receiving the 0.7-mg/kg/d dose of fenfluramine achieved a 50 percent or greater response versus placebo (25 versus 10 percent). Generalized tonic-clonic (GTC) [seizure](#) was the subtype that seemed most responsive to fenfluramine, with reductions in frequency of 45.7 and 58.2 percent in the groups receiving the 0.7- and 0.2-mg/kg/d doses of fenfluramine and a 3.7 percent increase in the [placebo group](#).

"Fenfluramine was also highly effective in reducing GTC seizures, suggesting that fenfluramine may be a particularly advantageous choice in patients with this seizure subtype," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed [financial ties](#) to biopharmaceutical companies, including Zogenix, which manufactures fenfluramine and funded the study.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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