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### RESEARCH DATA ON MEDICATION SWITCHING

Earlier this year the first case-control analysis to determine the odds of AED substitution among patients requiring emergency care was published in the journal *Epilepsia* (Zachry, et al). Using the Ingenix LabRX data base, the study reported that patients who had an epileptic event requiring emergency care, who had not required care for at least six months, had 81% greater odds of having an AED formulation switch.

The results of the Zachry study have now been replicated using a different data base (PharMetrics) and an even larger control group. Published in the July 2009 issue of the journal *Pharmacotherapy*, Rascati and colleagues conclude: "Patients who had an epileptic event requiring acute care were about 80% more likely than matched controls without an acute event to have recently had an antiepileptic drug substitution. Replication of a previously published case-control analysis revealed a similar association between substitution involving A-rated antiepileptic drugs and subsequent epileptic events requiring acute care, thereby lending credibility to the findings."

Additional articles on the subject follow.

- [Association between antiepileptic drug switching and epilepsy-related events](#)
- [An assessment of patient and pharmacist knowledge of and attitudes toward reporting adverse drug events due to formulation switching in patients with epilepsy](#)
- [The risks and costs of multiple-generic substitution of topiramate \(Abstract available\)](#)
- [Case-control analysis of ambulance, emergency room, or inpatient hospital events for epilepsy and antiepileptic drug formulation changes](#)
- [Generic substitution in the treatment of epilepsy: Case evidence of breakthrough seizures \(Abstract available\)](#)
- [Generic substitution in the treatment of epilepsy: Patient and physician perceptions](#)
- [Comparative daily profiles with different preparations of lamotrigine: A pilot investigation](#)
- [Compulsory generic switching of antiepileptic drugs: Higher switchback rates to branded compounds compared with other drug classes](#)
- [Are there potential problems with generic substitution of antiepileptic drugs? A review of issues](#)
- [Risk Management in epilepsy: Generic substitution and continuity of supply](#)
- [Lower phenytoin serum levels in persons switched from brand to generic phenytoin \(Abstract available\)](#)
- [Clinical problems with generic antiepileptic drugs: Comparison of sustained-release formulations of carbamazepine \(Abstract available\)](#)

#### News and Views

[VIDEO: Medication Switching on Good Morning America](#)

[VIDEO: Generics and Epilepsy story from WXYZ-ABC 7 Action News in Detroit, Michigan](#)

[An Interview with Steve Schachter, MD](#)

[The Foundation's Interactive News Release \(INR\) on medication switching](#)

[Alabama District Attorney Sues to Stop "Switching" of Prescription Medicines](#)