

Clinical Signature and Longitudinal Seizure Pattern of *SLC6A1*-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder

Laina Lusk Stripe, MMSc, LCGC

Pam Pojomovsky McDonnell, MD, FAES

December 4, 2025



Outline



Overview of *SLC6A1* and project aims



Clinical characteristics of our cohort



Seizure characteristics of our cohort



Anti-seizure medication use



Conclusions

Introduction

- *SLC6A1*-related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (NDD) involves:
 - Early onset epilepsy
 - Hypotonia (low muscle tone)
 - Variety of neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders
 - Movement disorders, gastrointestinal symptoms, sleep disturbances

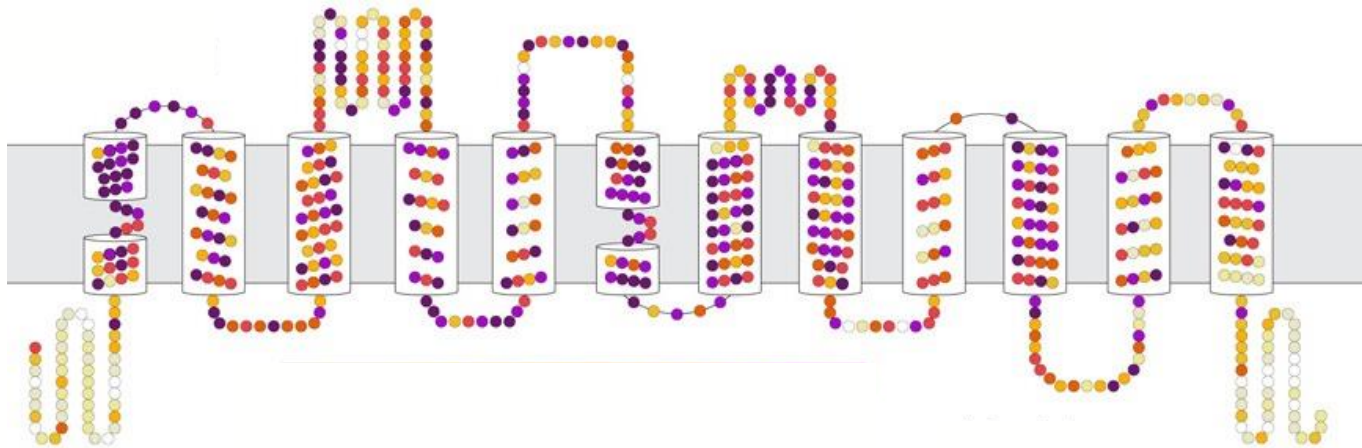
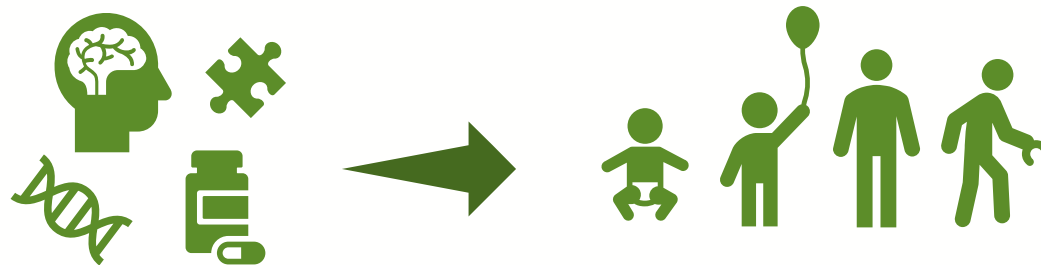


Figure: Silva et al. (2024), AJHG

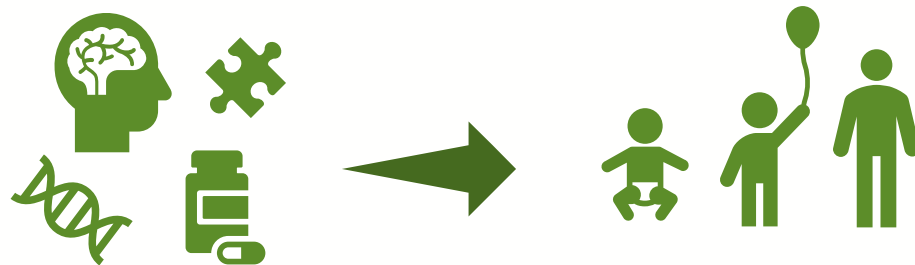
Goals

- While seizure onset and types are documented, data on natural history, medication response, and long-term prognosis are limited
- **Our goals:**
 - Characterize the features of *SLC6A1*-related NDD
 - Elucidate the natural history of seizures through childhood and into adulthood
- **Ultimate aim:** increase clinical trial readiness and highlight potential outcome measures



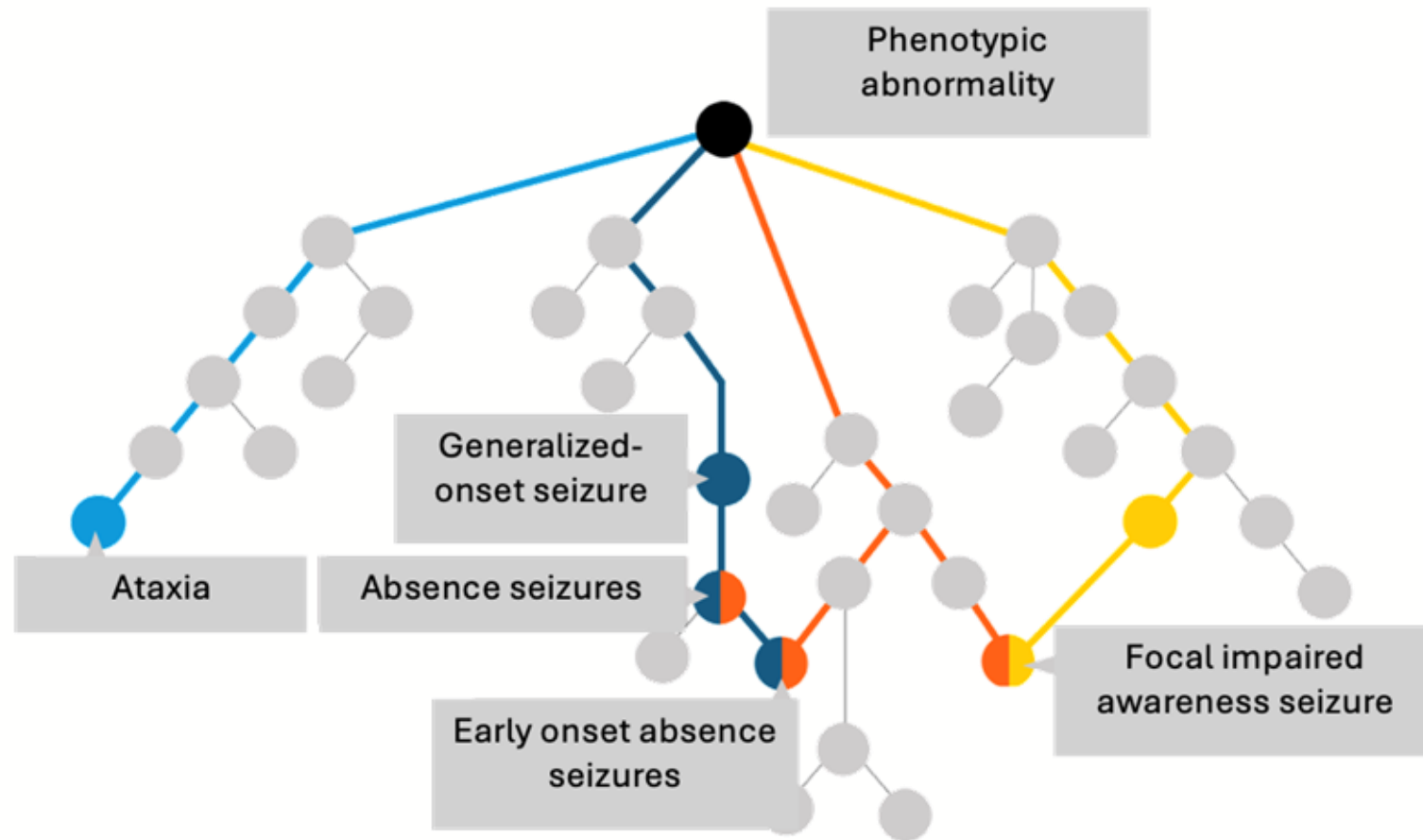
Methods

- Longitudinal disease reconstruction:
 - CHOP patients with confirmed *SLC6A1*-related NDD
 - All documented clinical diagnoses
 - Developmental milestones
 - Seizure types + frequencies mapped for each month
 - Anti-seizure medications (ASMs) mapped for each month



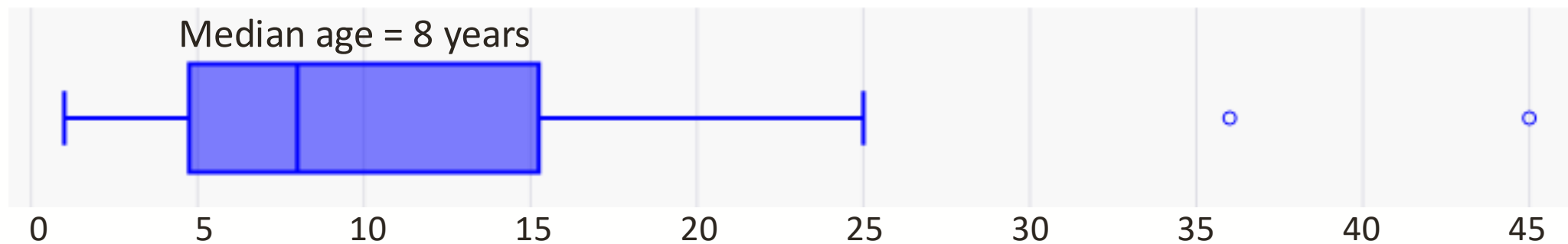
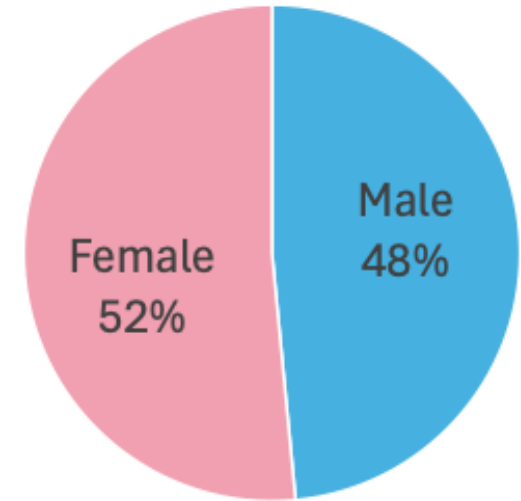
Methods

- Phenotypic traits standardized using the Human Phenotype Ontology (HPO)

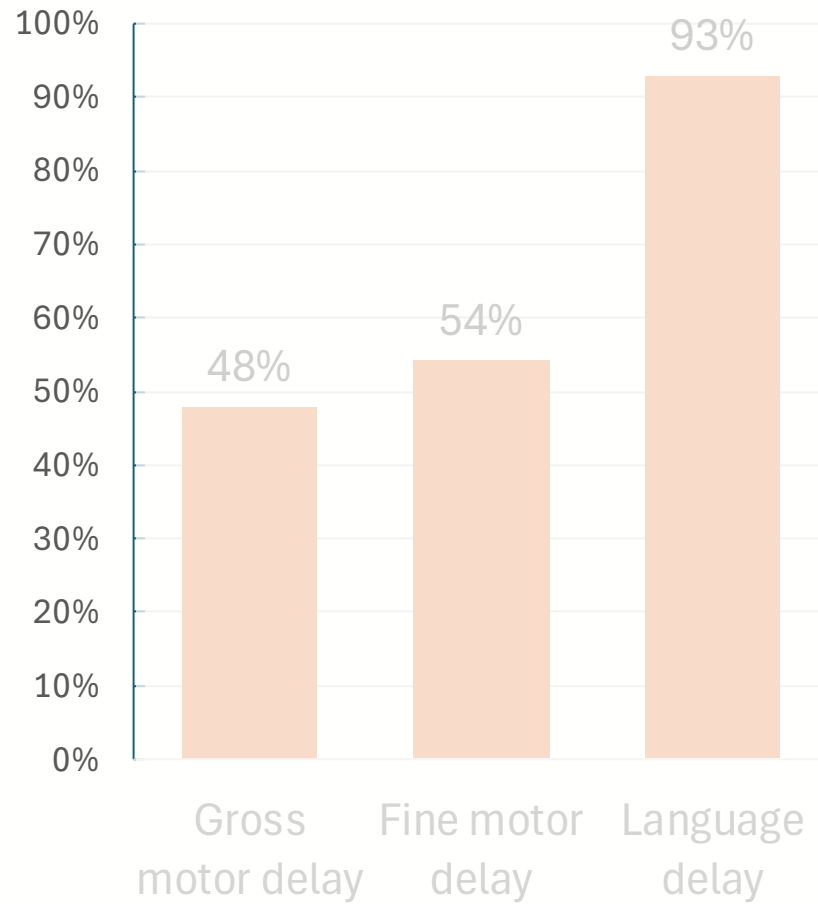


Results: cohort description

- 33 individuals
 - 17 female, 16 male
 - Age range of 1-45 years
 - Total of 3476 patient-months (289.7 patient-years)



Clinical features

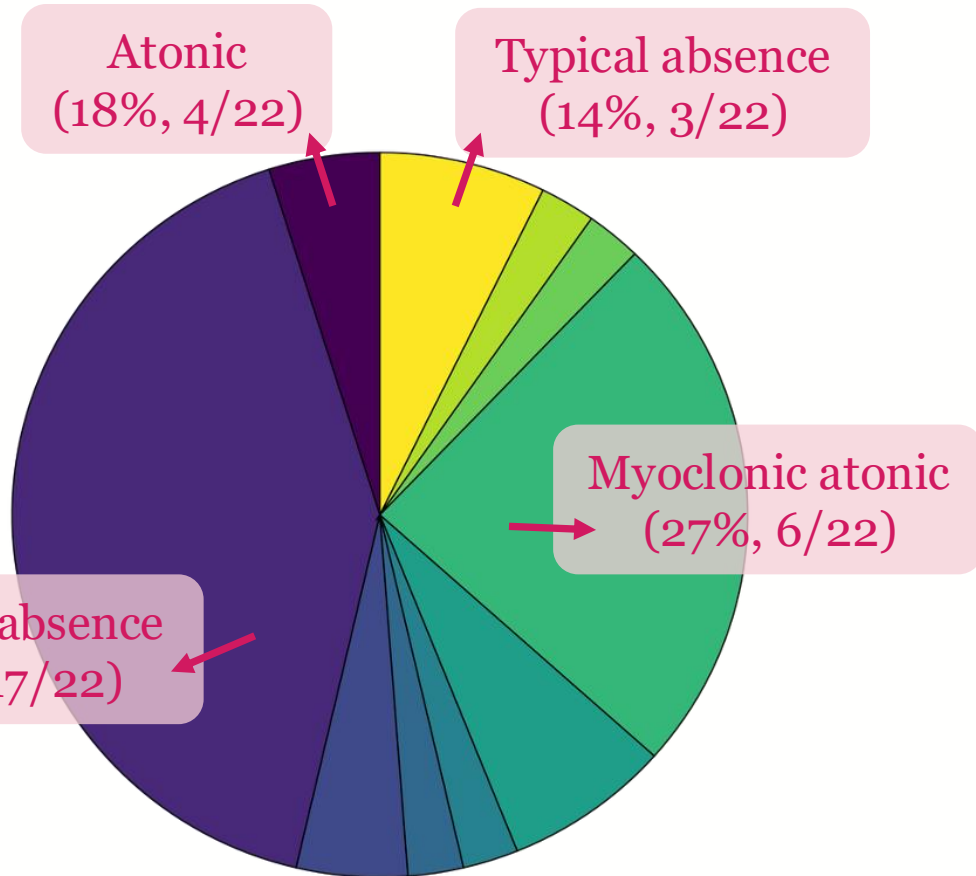


Seizure data



- Median age of **onset was 29 months** (4-89 months)
- **55% (12/22)** achieved ≥ 24 mos **seizure freedom**
 - Last seizure at a median age of **7.4 years** (4-12 years)
- Among the 5 adults with epilepsy history data, **60% (3/5) were seizure free** with/without ASM

Seizure types

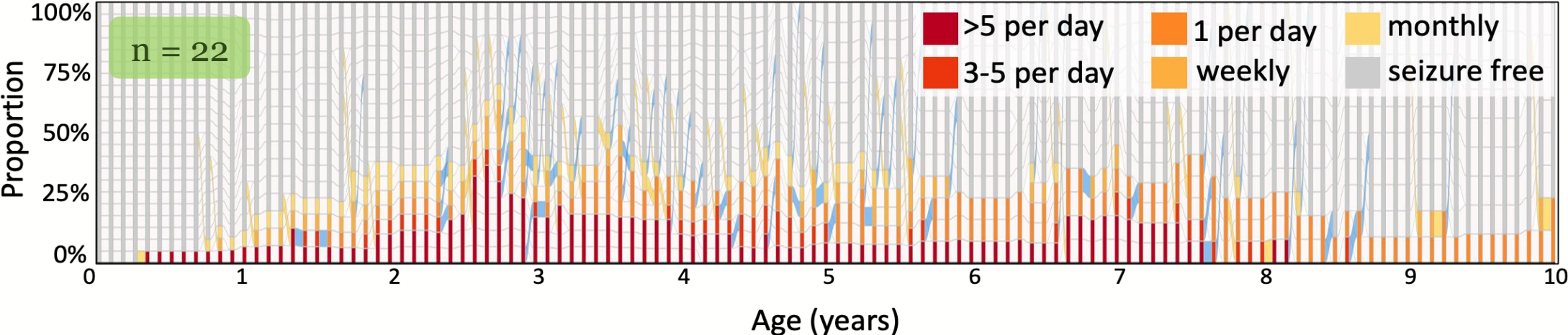


Seizure Type

- Atonic Seizure
- Atypical Absence Seizure
- Bilateral tonic-clonic with generalized onset
- Complex febrile seizure
- Focal clonic seizure
- Generalized atonic seizure
- Myoclonic-atonic seizure
- Generalized onset seizure (not otherwise specified)
- Myoclonic seizure
- Typical absence seizure

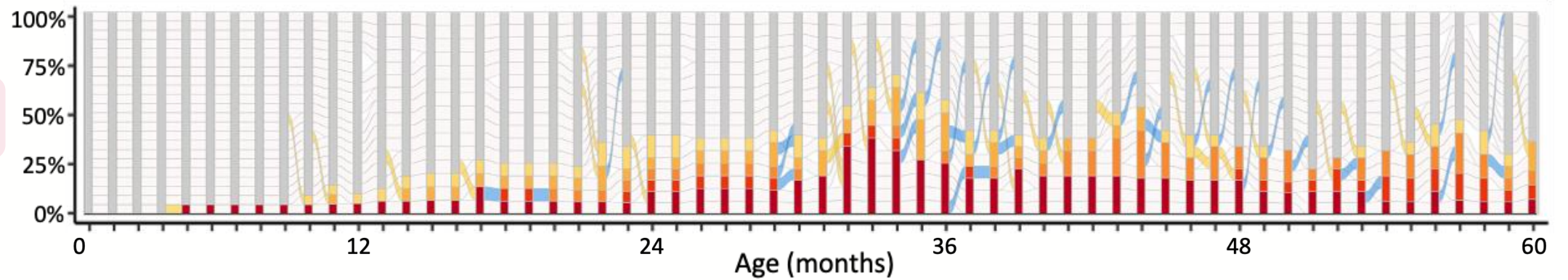
All seizure types reported amongst 22/33 participants in our cohort

All Seizures



Comparison of seizure trajectories

SLC6A1



ASM effectiveness across participants with seizures

Valproic acid (n = 13, 59%)

Levetiracetam (n = 13, 59%)

Lamotrigine (n = 11, 50%)

Ethosuximide (n = 10, 45%)

Clobazam (n = 9, 41%)

Valproic acid: OR = 1.3 ($p < 0.001$)

Clobazam: OR = 1.4 ($p < 0.001$)

Summary



Psychiatric diagnoses are common



Seizures show a unique longitudinal pattern



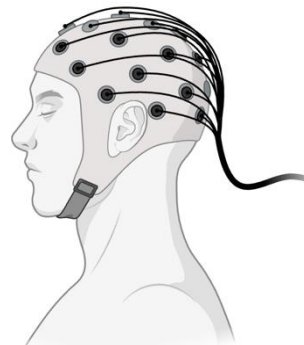
Seizure frequencies are dynamic over time, rather than a stable proportion with seizures



Valproic acid and clobazam were more effective, while lamotrigine had a less clear benefit

Next steps

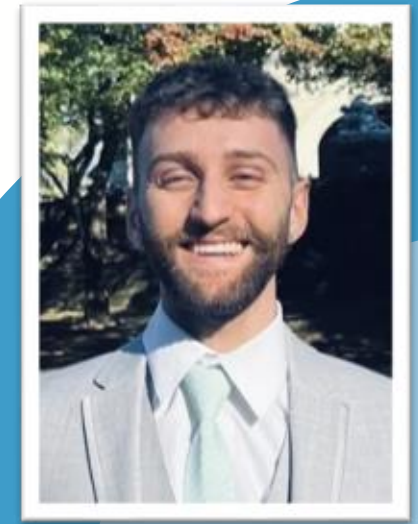
- Leverage our large dataset as basis for prospective natural history
 - Standardized measures, tracked over time
 - Assess cognitive abilities, motor functions, and psychiatric features
 - qEEG data available
 - Brain Gene Registry Project collaboration



Thank you!

Special thanks to:

- Samuel Miller, MS - GC thesis student
- Michael Kaufman, MS; Jillian McKee, MD PhD
- Helbig lab
- ENGIN team at CHOP
- All of our patients and families!



Penn Medicine



SLC6A1 Connect
SLC6A1 Research & Support



Helbig Lab