



WHAT CAN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY DO IN INTEGRAL EPILEPSY CARE?

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Purpose. We present an Institution in Colombia which satisfies the modern scientific criteria in epilepsy care, both medically and surgically. We also offer completed rehabilitation and educational programs.

Methods.

Facilities: **1.964.** Foundation of the Colombian League against Epilepsy. **1.974.** Foundation of the Center for Rehabilitation (FIRE). **1.989** the Neurological Hospital devoted to epilepsy surgery was opened. NON PROFIT INSTITUTIONS with essential facilities.

A National Epilepsy Award was created for encouraging research among young scientists.

We received the IBE International Volunteer Award 2.007.

Human rights and education: An antidiscrimination law project is running in the Colombian Parliament. Educational epilepsy programs are realized in the remote regions of the country.

A program for rehabilitation and neuropsychology has been organized in our center.

Results. 100.000 patients under control. 9800 patients hospitalized since 1989.

820 epilepsy surgeries have been done:

ATL 265, 80% seizure free. Palliative surgery (callosotomy) 240, 19% seizure free. Hemispherectomies 54, 62% seizure free. Extratemporal surgeries 52. Subdural electrodes 110. Lesionectomies 48. Others 26.

About 1000 children and adolescents with epilepsy have been rehabilitated in different programs.

Discussion and results: The treatment for the epilepsies must be medical and surgical. Educational and rehabilitation programs should be added. We achieve an interdisciplinary task with excellent results. A rehabilitation center with therapists aside from medical personnel is very important. With exemplary dedication and responsibility, it is quite possible to achieve good results in developing countries. This statement is for aiming other developing countries to share our experiences.

