A 48-year-old woman was evaluated for a 40-year history of medically refractory absence and generalized tonic-clonic seizures. Neurologic examination and brain MRI were normal. Awake interictal EEG showed generalized fast spike-wave complex, always right hemispheric maximal (figure 1). Hyper-ventilation induced a brief period of behavioral arrest accompanying generalized EEG spike-wave activity. Interictal brain PET scan showed diffuse right hemispheric hypometabolism (figure 2). Blume1 coined the term hemispheric epilepsy to denote a seizure syndrome in 13 patients from a database of more than 25,000. This rare condition emulates refractory idiopathic generalized epilepsy, with the exception of consistently asymmetric EEG epileptiform activity.

REFERENCE