

# Multimodal nocturnal seizure detection in a residential care setting

## A long-term prospective trial

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### Study objective

To determine whether a device that measures heart rate and movement can reliably detect nocturnal epileptic seizures.

### Summary results

The device can reliably detect nocturnal epileptic seizures.

### What is known and what this paper adds

Automated seizure detection systems could provide a useful measure of nocturnal seizure activity and prevent sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. This study shows that a recently developed system that measures heart rate and movement can reliably detect nocturnal seizures.

### Participants and setting

This study recruited 28 patients with epilepsy (10 women; mean age, 29.1 years; age range, 15–67 years) who experienced  $\geq 2$  major nocturnal seizures per month and resided in various Dutch epilepsy centers between September 1, 2015, and January 9, 2017.

### Design, size, and duration

The participants wore Nightwatch upper arm bracelets (LivAssured BV; Vught, the Netherlands) that recorded heart rate and accelerometry data. The participants slept while wearing the bracelet and being filmed with an infrared-sensitive camera. Trial nurses reviewed the video footage to detect and classify seizures, and these evaluations constituted the reference test. An algorithm analyzed the bracelet-recorded data for real-time seizure detection, and a true positive was defined as an alarm raised within 3 minutes before or 5 minutes after the start of a major seizure. The algorithm's sensitivity was compared to a bed sensor's sensitivity in 14 participants who already used a bed sensor.

**Table** Seizure type-specific detection rates with the multimodal sensor

Seizure type	Detection rate (95% CI)
Tonic-clonic	96% (80%–100%)
Generalized tonic with >30 s duration	89% (33%–100%)
Hyperkinetic	73% (50%–100%)
Other major seizures	84% (50%–100%)

### Main results and the role of chance

For major seizures, the algorithm had a median sensitivity of 86% (95% confidence interval [CI], 77%–93%), a positive predictive value of 49% (95% CI, 33%–64%), and a false alarm rate of 0.03 per night (95% CI, 0.01–0.05 per night). The algorithm's sensitivity was superior to the bed sensor's sensitivity ( $p < 0.001$ ).

### Bias, confounding, and other reasons for caution

This study did not use video-EEG as a reference test (only video).

### Generalizability to other populations

The patient sample excluded individuals with abnormal movements or dark skin tones. This may limit the generalizability of the results to such persons.

### Study funding/potential competing interests

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