

APPENDIX 3

Seizure and epilepsy terminology

The terminology for seizures and epilepsy has changed over the years, and both “old” and “new” terms can be found in the literature. Table A3.1 shows common terms in both their old and new forms.^{1,2} This book uses the new terms, listed in the table in the order they are discussed in the text.

Table A3.1 Old and new terms for seizures and epilepsy

NEW TERM	OLD TERM
Focal onset seizure	Partial seizure
Focal aware seizure	Simple partial seizure
Focal impaired awareness seizure	Complex partial seizure
Focal to bilateral tonic-clonic seizure	Focal seizure with secondary generalization
Generalized tonic-clonic seizure	Grand mal seizure
Absence seizure	Petit mal seizure
Atonic	Akinetic or drop attacks
Hyperkinetic	Hypermotor
Epileptic spasm	Infantile spasm
Nonepileptic psychogenic seizure (PNES)	Psychogenic seizure, pseudoseizure

References

- 1 Sarmast ST, Abdullahi AM, Jahan N (2020) Current classification of seizures and epilepsies: Scope, limitations and recommendations for future action. *Cureus*, 12, 1–13.
- 2 Fisher R, Shafer PO, D’Souza C (2016) *2017 Revised classification of seizures*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.epilepsy.com/stories/2017-revised-classification-seizures>> [Accessed December 16 2024].