

# An Evidence-Based Review On The Use Of Perampanel For The Treatment Of Focal-Onset Seizures In Pediatric Patients

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**Abstract:** Perampanel, a non-competitive AMPA receptor antagonist, is a once-daily oral antiepileptic drug approved for the treatment of focal seizures and primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in children 12 years of age and over. We conducted a systematic review of the data on perampanel in children and adolescents with focal-onset seizures. We found 21 published papers on the pediatric use of perampanel for focal-onset seizures, including 9 papers on clinical trials and ancillary studies of these trials, of which 2 focused on pharmacokinetics, 1 was a meta-analysis, and 9 were real-life studies (1 was prospective). Perampanel, as an adjunctive treatment for uncontrolled focal-onset seizures, results in an improvement of seizure control with a generally good safety profile. Evidence-based data are currently available for children 12 years of age and over. Higher amounts of perampanel might be required in patients taking enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs. The most common adverse events are somnolence, dizziness and behavioral adverse events. The latter seems more frequent in adolescents than in adults and in adolescents with preexisting behavioral comorbidities. Current studies did not identify any short-term impact of perampanel on cognitive functions. Its long half-life allows once-daily administration. Real-life studies further established that a decrease of the dose frequently resolves adverse events, as demonstrated in pivotal studies. Pharmacokinetic and safety studies are still ongoing in the younger population, down to 4 years of age, in order to apply for approval in this age group.

**Keywords:** antiepileptic drugs, children, epilepsy, focal onset seizure, perampanel

## Introduction

Perampanel is a selective, non-competitive antagonist of  $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid (AMPA)-type glutamate receptors at the postsynaptic level. Perampanel is the first non-competitive AMPA receptor antagonist anti-seizure agent. Perampanel is a once-daily oral antiepileptic drug approved for focal seizures and primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures for children 12 years of age and over in Europe.<sup>1,2</sup> The approval in pediatric ages has been given for focal seizures down to the age of 4 years in October 2018, while the application has been submitted to the European Medicine Agency early in 2019.<sup>1</sup>

After oral administration, absorption is complete and rapid without significant first-pass metabolism.<sup>3</sup> Under fasting conditions, the time taken to reach the maximum concentration ( $T_{max}$ ) is 0.5 to 2.0 hrs. In clinical studies, half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) values ranged from 53 to 136 hrs (average of 105 hrs in 19 Phase I studies).<sup>3</sup> The steady-state concentration is reached within 2 to 3 weeks. The area under the concentration-time

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curve increases in a dose-proportional manner.<sup>3</sup> Perampanel is mainly metabolized by CYP3A4 and CYP3A5. The clearance of perampanel is enhanced by enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs.<sup>3</sup> But perampanel decreased oxcarbazepine clearance (by 26%) increasing its plasma concentration (by 35%).<sup>3</sup>

Perampanel has first been approved by the FDA and the EMA in 2012 for focal-onset seizures with or without focal to bilateral tonic-clonic evolution.<sup>1,2</sup> Initial approvals were given in adolescents above 12 years of age and in adults. Ancillary studies and real-life studies have been conducted since 2012 increasing our knowledge on the efficacy and safety of perampanel for epileptic disorders. In this article, we conducted a systematic review of the data on perampanel in children and adolescents for focal-onset seizures.

## Methods

The systemic review has been done using the National Library of Medicine. Two searches have been realized with the following keywords: “perampanel AND children” and “perampanel AND adolescent”. This has been conducted between February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Only papers in English have been considered. The abstracts were first screened to identify all the papers on the administration of perampanel for focal-onset seizures. The authors conducted independently this bibliographic evaluation before sharing their results. The selection of the papers included in this review is reported in Figure 1.

Results are presented in three sections: data from randomized controlled trials, ancillary studies of the pivotal studies, and real-life studies.

## Results

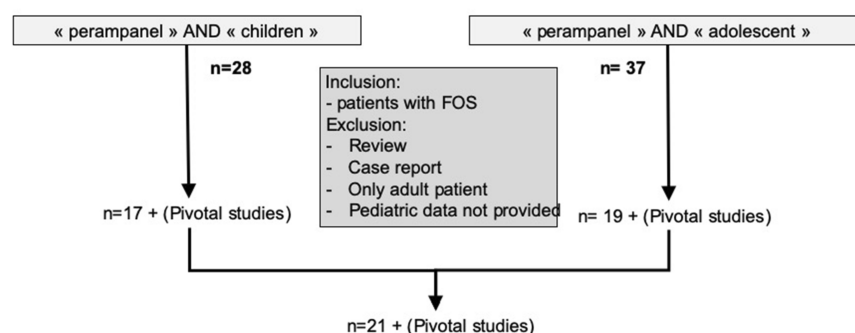
After analyzing the articles, we found 21 published papers on perampanel for the treatment of focal-onset seizures (Figure 1). The data are summarized below.

## Pivotal Studies

Three Phase III pivotal studies were conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of perampanel in patients with drug-resistant epilepsy with focal-onset seizures (study 304: NCT00699972; 305: NCT00699582; 306: NCT00700310).<sup>4-7</sup> These three studies were randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials on perampanel use in addition to the antiepileptic drug regimen of the included patients (1 to 3 AEDs). Patients continued receiving their established concomitant AEDs without modification during the duration of the trial. These studies had a similar design with a 6-week observation pre-randomization phase, followed by a 19-week, double-blind treatment phase divided into a titration phase of 6 weeks and a maintenance phase of 13 weeks. Perampanel was used from 2mg/day up to 12mg/day. Two studies evaluated perampanel 8 mg/day and 12 mg/day,<sup>4</sup> while study 306 evaluated lower doses of 2 mg/day, 4 mg/day, and 8 mg/day.<sup>7</sup> During the titration period, perampanel oral doses given before bedtime were increased by 2 mg/day/week. One downtitration of 2 mg was permitted in case of adverse events.

The patients included in these three studies rolled over into an extension study starting by a blinded conversion period (NCT00735397). This open-label study was planned for 256 weeks. The aim of this study was to evaluate the maintenance of the efficacy, as well as the safety of perampanel at the maximum tolerated dose. The design allowed dose adjustment or discontinuation of the concomitant AED.

Rosenfeld et al reported the data of adolescent patients from the three pivotal RCT (studies 304, 305, or 306).<sup>6</sup> Pooled data of 143 adolescents of the 1480 patients from the core studies showed a median percent decrease in seizure frequency of 34.8% for 8mg/day of perampanel and 35.6% for 12mg/day of perampanel, while the median



**Figure 1** Graphic representation of the bibliographic research on perampanel use in children with uncontrolled focal-onset seizures.

percent decrease in seizure frequency was 18% in the placebo group.<sup>6</sup> The pooled analysis reported 22.2% of responder rate for placebo, 40.9% for 8mg/day of perampanel, and 45% for 12mg/day of perampanel (Table 1).<sup>6</sup> When patients were under AED inducers (carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, or phenytoin), a smaller median percent reduction in seizure frequency was observed in comparison to adolescents receiving concomitant AED noninducers (Table 1).

In the extension phase, 122 adolescents were analyzed with the intent-to-treat dataset, and 112 were included in the perampanel safety analysis. During the first 52 weeks of the open-label maintenance period, responder rates ranged from 27.3% to 60.0% in adolescents randomized to placebo during the core studies who switched to perampanel during the extension phase and from 40.9% to 54.8% in adolescents receiving perampanel throughout the study.<sup>6</sup> During the double-blind phase, the most common adverse events defined by an occurrence of >5% in perampanel-treated patients and  $\geq 2$  times more often than with placebo were dizziness (20.4%), somnolence (15.3%), aggression (8.2%), decrease of appetite (6.1%), and rhinitis (5.1%). Aggression was more frequent in the adolescent population than in the overall population, in particular with a higher dose.<sup>6</sup> During the extension phase, the psychiatric and behavioral adverse events were aggression (18.2%), insomnia (6.6%), abnormal behavior (4.1%) and anxiety (4.1%).<sup>6</sup>

Another multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial involving adolescents aged  $\geq 12$  years and adults with refractory focal-onset seizures further established the efficacy of perampanel (NCT01618695).<sup>8</sup> Seven hundred and ten patients were randomized. This study found similar efficacy and safety profile than the above studies. The paper did not report the detailed data on the adolescent population.<sup>8</sup>

## Additional Randomized Controlled Trials Study 235 (NCT01161524)

A dedicated Phase II study has been conducted in adolescents with uncontrolled focal-onset seizures to evaluate the effect of perampanel on cognition, growth, safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics (study 235 (NCT01161524)).<sup>9</sup> The design included 1 week of pre-randomization, followed by 6 weeks of titration, and finally a 19-week maintenance period. The objective of the study was to explore the relationship between perampanel exposure and the cognition assessed by CDR (Cognitive Drug Research) score (baseline versus Week 19). Seizure frequency, pharmacokinetics and safety, including behavior, were also evaluated. The study included 78 patients in the perampanel group and 46 in the placebo group, with a median age of 14 years (weight range from 28 to 116 kg with a median at 51.7 kg).<sup>9</sup>

Pharmacokinetic parameters in the adolescent population were consistent with data in adults acquired during pivotal studies, suggesting the absence of age difference in pharmacokinetic dose between adults and adolescents aged 12 years and over. Moreover, dose linearity (ie, plasma concentration) increased in proportion to perampanel dose. This was similar in patients taking inducer and non-inducer concomitant AED.<sup>9</sup>

The study was not sufficiently powered to evaluate the efficacy of perampanel versus placebo. The observed median percent change in seizure frequency from baseline per 28 days was 24% in the placebo group (n = 46) and 58% in the perampanel group (n = 83) (p = 0.079 but not powered to evaluate efficacy). The 50% responder rate was 37.0% (n = 17) in the placebo group versus 59.0% (n = 49) in the perampanel group (p = 0.0144 but not powered to evaluate efficacy).

Another paper reported the details of the cognitive data of study 235.<sup>10</sup> This study has used the CDR (cognitive drug research) system, which is a set of automated validated tests

**Table 1** Efficacy Data Of Perampanel Based On The Pooled Data Of 143 Adolescents From The 1480 Patients From The Core Studies<sup>4-7</sup>

		Placebo	8MG	12MG
Median percent decrease in Sz frequency	FOS	18%	34.8%	35.6%
	with inducers	15.4%	31.6%	26.8%
	without inducers	54.6%	52.7%	18%
	Focal to bilateral TC	40.3%	39.2%	4.4%
Responders >50% Sz reduction	FOS	22.2%	40.9%	45%

**Abbreviations:** FOS, focal-onset seizure; Sz, seizure; TC, tonic-clonic.

of cognitive function available in many languages. The CDR system has five core domains: 1) power of attention; 2) continuity of attention; 3) quality of episodic memory; 4) quality of working memory; and 5) speed of memory. Prior to dosing, it is important to note that epilepsy patients showed impairments on the CDR system in the power of attention domain as compared to healthy controls. In study 235, no difference was found between the perampanel group ( $n = 79$ ) and the placebo group ( $n = 44$ ).<sup>10</sup> Precisely, perampanel resulted in a non-significant mean difference compared with placebo ( $-2.2$  (95% CI  $-5.2$  to  $0.8$ );  $p = 0.145$ ). Small differences between perampanel and placebo groups were found in few CDR system core domains. This resulted in an improvement in “quality of episodic memory” (perampanel:  $3.0$  vs placebo:  $-1.2$ ;  $p = 0.012$ ) and a worsening in 2 domains, “continuity of attention” (perampanel:  $-3.3$  vs placebo:  $1.6$ ;  $p = 0.013$ ) and “speed of memory” (perampanel:  $0.3$  vs placebo:  $7.0$ ;  $p = 0.032$ ). Adverse events were reported with perampanel: dizziness in 30.6% and somnolence in 15.3%.

Lagae et al reported on behavioral assessment in study 235 using the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) before and after 19 weeks in the studied groups (perampanel vs placebo).<sup>11</sup> Sixteen items of the CBCL were scored for each adolescent and then grouped into three subscores for activities, social realms and school. The summation of the 16 items was used as a total competence score. No difference was found between the groups from baseline to the end of the study. The mean change in the CBCL total competence score after adjustment (region and age) was  $0.0 \pm 3.54$  for perampanel ( $n=79$ ) and  $+0.2 \pm 3.52$  for placebo ( $n=44$ ) ( $p = 0.619$ ).<sup>11</sup> No correlation was found between CBCL subscale scores and reduction in seizure frequency regardless of the group.<sup>11</sup>

An extension study was offered to the patients who completed the double-blind phase.<sup>12</sup> The patients receiving the placebo in the first part of study 235 had a conversion period of 6 weeks. The open-label extension of 52 weeks was opened to patients who did not have access to perampanel (commercially not available or denied access program). One hundred and fourteen patients were included in the extension phase. A total of 24 patients (21.1%) discontinued perampanel during the extension phase, with the most common reason for discontinuation being adverse events (thirteen patients received 10–12 mg/day, ten received 6–8 mg/day, and one received 4 mg/day of perampanel).<sup>12</sup> Using the CDR system to assess cognition at 52 weeks, the mean (SD) change in global cognition T-score was  $-1.0$  (9.9) from baseline to

the end of treatment; this change was not statistically significant ( $p = 0.96$ ) and not considered to be clinically relevant.<sup>12</sup> The extension phase also assessed the effect of perampanel on growth. No clinically relevant changes were observed in weight, height, or Tanner stage.<sup>12</sup> Most of the common adverse events (ie, dizziness, somnolence, aggression, irritability, and fatigue) occurred during the first phase of the extension study (Weeks 1–13) and decreased in frequency in the second part of the extension phase (Weeks 40–52).<sup>12</sup>

## Ancillary Studies Or Pooled Analysis Of The Randomized Controlled Trials Data

In addition to the randomized controlled trial data, our review identified 2 pharmacological studies, 1 pooled analysis on psychiatric side effects of perampanel, and an ancillary study on patients' risk of falling.

A pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analysis of perampanel in patients with focal-onset seizure was available.<sup>13</sup> Perampanel plasma concentrations during maintenance of the patients included in the pivotal studies, in study 335, and in study 235, were used for a pooled analysis. Pooled perampanel pharmacokinetic data were best described by a one-compartment disposition model with linear elimination parameterized for apparent clearance and volume of distribution (VD). Without co-administration of AED inducers, the apparent clearance is similar in the total population ( $0.668$  L/hr) and the adolescent population ( $0.682$  L/hr).<sup>13</sup> The apparent clearance of perampanel is increased in both populations with carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine/phenytoin, and topiramate/phenobarbital.<sup>13</sup> In the pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic model, perampanel administration reduced the frequency of focal-onset seizures in relation to an increase in perampanel exposure, but independently of time.<sup>13</sup> No intrinsic or extrinsic factors significantly affected the probability of response.<sup>13</sup>

A second study on pharmacokinetics was found in our literature review. It was a multicenter, open, prospective study on the effects of antiepileptic drugs on the steady-state plasma concentration of perampanel in epilepsy patients.<sup>14</sup> Patients aged 12 years and over treated with a stable dose of perampanel for at least 1 month and stable concomitant antiepileptic drugs for the last 3 weeks were included. Blood samples were collected approximately 12 hrs after perampanel intake at bedtime to evaluate the perampanel plasma concentration to weight-adjusted daily dose ratio as the main primary outcome ( $C/D$ ; [ $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ]/ $\text{mg kg}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ ).<sup>14</sup> This study



reported the data from 114 blood samples from 79 patients (53% female) with a mean age of  $33 \pm 13$  years with a body weight of  $68 \pm 21$  kg. The mean amount of perampanel prescribed was  $6.3 \pm 2.3$  mg/day. Age and sex did not significantly affect perampanel C/D. The combination of perampanel with enzyme inducers significantly reduced perampanel C/D. The mean values of C/D were similar in patients treated with carbamazepine, phenytoin, or oxcarbazepine.<sup>14</sup>

As mentioned above, psychiatric and behavioral side effects have been identified in epilepsy patients treated with perampanel.<sup>6</sup> Ettinger et al analyzed the full perampanel safety database showing that psychiatric adverse events were associated with the use of perampanel.<sup>15</sup> This included multiple Phase I, II, and III clinical studies for epilepsy and non-epilepsy patients and Phase I volunteer populations.<sup>15</sup> The risk of anger or aggression was not increased with perampanel in non-epilepsy patients, while a dose-related increase of psychiatric adverse events was observed in epilepsy patients. Analyzing the results of a questionnaire, the authors observed that the incidence of hostility/aggression was higher in perampanel-treated epilepsy patients compared to placebo (perampanel 3.0 vs placebo 0.7% with a narrow definition and 11.8% vs 5.7%, respectively, for a broader definition). These types of adverse events were manageable with dose adjustment or discontinuation in few cases.<sup>15</sup> An analysis of the adolescent population (12–18 years,  $n=143$ ) in comparison to the adult population ( $n=1309$ ) suggested that psychiatric adverse events are more frequent in adolescents. The most common psychiatric adverse event was aggression, seen in 8.2% of patients (none in the placebo group).<sup>15</sup>

Several side effects commonly seen with antiepileptic drugs such as drowsiness, dizziness, fatigue, imbalance, or irritability might increase the risk of falling in epilepsy patients. A pooled analysis of 3 pivotal studies on focal-onset seizures (studies 304, 305 and 306)<sup>4–7</sup> focused on this issue showing that perampanel exposure in patients with focal-onset seizures is associated with falls, which are associated with increased doses.<sup>16</sup> In adolescents (12–18 years), falls were more frequently reported as a treatment-emergent adverse event in the perampanel-treated group (3.1%) than in the placebo group (2.2%). The risk of falling was generally higher in the adult population, including a further risk when treated with perampanel (perampanel 4.9% vs placebo 3.6%). Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic investigations suggested that higher plasma perampanel concentrations increase the probability of gait disturbance and falls.<sup>16</sup>

## Meta-Analysis

Using a network meta-analysis, Rosati et al conducted comparisons across pediatric randomized control trials based on a common comparator (placebo or standard of care). When 2 different types of intervention needed to be compared without any available study, indirect evidence was obtained by studying each intervention versus a common comparator. Direct comparisons were evaluated by random-effect pairwise meta-analysis within a frequentist approach. Then, treatment effect was assessed using odds ratios (OR) and their 95% confidence intervals (CI). For mixed-treatment comparison, a random-effects NMA within a Bayesian framework has been performed. Then, the treatment effects were assessed using OR and their 95% credible intervals ((CrI) the Bayesian equivalent to CI).<sup>17</sup> After the selection of 46 RCT representing 5652 individuals randomized to 22 AED or placebo, the network analysis for focal-onset seizures consisted of five studies for newly diagnosed epilepsy and 9 studies for drug-resistant epilepsy. Data on perampanel were only available for drug-resistant focal-onset seizure epilepsy, showing that perampanel (OR = 2.5, 95% CrI = 1.1–5.8) was more effective compared to placebo. In the same analysis, it was also found that levetiracetam was more effective compared to placebo (OR = 3.3, 95% CrI = 1.3–7.6).<sup>17</sup>

## Real-Life Studies

Nine real-life studies have been published<sup>18–26</sup> (Table 2). Eight are retrospective studies, one is a prospective study,<sup>25</sup> and one is both prospective and retrospective.<sup>23</sup> These studies reported a total of 407 children and adolescents treated with perampanel, including 255 patients with focal-onset seizures. The efficacy expressed by responders (decrease of at least 50% of seizure frequency compared to the baseline) varied from 12% to 62% for all patients. The efficacy data for focal-onset seizures were available in 3 of the nine real-life studies, with a responder rate of 33% in the study published by Biro et al, while the responder rate was 19% at 6 months of treatment and 24% at 12 months of treatment in the study published by Swiderska et al.<sup>23</sup> The adverse event rate varied from 13% to 70%. The most frequent adverse events were behavioral adverse events, fatigue/somnolence and dizziness (Table 2). Some reports suggested that pretreatment behavioral comorbidity was a risk factor for the occurrence of behavioral adverse events, while the prescription of perampanel in association with levetiracetam did not seem to increase this risk (Table 2). Four studies mentioned that dose adjustment or discontinuation of perampanel leads to

**Table 2** Summary Of the Real-Life Study Reporting The Use Of Perampanel For Focal-Onset Seizure In The Pediatric Population

First author	Year	Study	Age	n	n FOS	Efficacy on FOS	Adverse events	Dosing
Biro <sup>18</sup>	2015	Retrospective	Mean: 10.5 years Range: 2–17 years	58	36	Responders 12/36 (33%) Sz free 3/36 (8.3%)	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 28/58 (48%) 43/52 AEs were mild/moderate Most frequent: reduced vigilance or fatigue (n=16), behavioral changes (n=14)	NA
De Liso <sup>19</sup>	2016	Retrospective	Mean: 14.2 years Range: 6–18 years n=8 (<12 years)	62	39	NA for FOS Sz free 3/62 (4.8%), Responders: 18/62 (29.0%)	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 19/62 (30.6%) Most frequent: - irritability (n=7/62; 11.3%) - fatigue (n=7/62; 11.3%) -dizziness (n=6/62; 9.7%). No significant difference in AE between children <12 years and patients ≥12 years AE resolved following dose reduction or discontinuation of PER	Mean: 7.1±2.3 mg Median: 8 mg Range: 2–12 mg
Singh <sup>26</sup>	2016	Retrospective	Mean: 10.9 years Median: 12.5 years	16	NA	NA for FOS 62% responders	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 44% Discontinuation in 25%	NA
Datta <sup>20</sup>	2017	Retrospective	Median: 17 years Inclusion <21 years	24	21	NA for FOS 10/24 responders (42%)	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 17/24 (70.8%) including 41% serious AE Most frequent: behavior 12 behavioral AE causing withdrawal of perampanel but 58% had preexisting behavioral comorbidity. AE resolved following dose reduction or discontinuation of PER	7/24 (30%) maximum dose 2–4 mg/day 11/24 (46%) maximum dose 6–8 mg/day 6/24 (24%) maximum dose 10 mg/day

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

First author	Year	Study	Age	n	n FOS	Efficacy on FOS	Adverse events	Dosing
Heyman <sup>21</sup>	2017	Retrospective	Mean: 10 years $\pm$ 4 years 5 months Range: 1 year 6 months–17 years	24	4	NA for FOS	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 16/24 (67%) Most frequent: - nervousness (n=6/24; 25%) - restlessness (n=5/24; 21%), - behavioural deterioration (n=5/24; 21%)	Mean: 6.5 mg/day (SD 3 mg/day) Initiate at 2 mg/day given once a day in the evening, increased every week by 2 mg/day up to 4 to 12 mg/day.
Swiderska <sup>23</sup>	2017	Retrospective and prospective	Median 14 years 11 months Range: 11 months–24 years 5 months	96	73	Responders 6 months: 14/73 (19%) 12 months: 14/58 (24%)	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 51/96 (53%) - 12 years and older: (40/72; 55%) - Younger than 12 years (11/24; 45%) Discontinuation in 36.7% due to challenging behavior (n=24/79; 30%) due to dizziness (n=11/79; 14%) due to gait instability (n=6/79; 7.6%) due to somnolence (n=6/79; 7.6%)	The maintenance dose of PER in responders was 0.134 mg/kg/day
Lin <sup>22</sup>	2018	Retrospective	Mean: 14.9 $\pm$ 2.3 years Range: 8–18 years	66	50	NA for FOS Responders at 3 months: 20/66 (30.3%) 6 months: 21/56 (37.5%) 12 months: 17/49 (34.7%)	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 25/66 (37.9%) Most frequent: irritability (n=7/66; 10.6%) skin rash (n=7/66; 10.6%) dizziness (n=6/66; 9.1%) somnolence (n=5/66; 7.6%) discontinuation in 8/66 (12.1%). Most patients (76%, 19/25) experienced these adverse events at treatment initiation ( $\leq$ 4 mg daily dose of PER after starting, suggesting that the probability of adverse events did not clearly correlate with the dosage. AE resolved following dose reduction or discontinuation of PER	NA
Yun <sup>24</sup>	2018	Retrospective	Mean: 8 $\pm$ 2.5 years Range: 3.1–11.4 years	22	2	Responders 1/2	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 9/22 (41%) Most frequent: somnolence (n=5/22; 23%)	NA

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued).

First author	Year	Study	Age	n	n FOS	Efficacy on FOS	Adverse events	Dosing
Kanemura <sup>25</sup>	2019	Prospective analysis according to coprescription of LEV	Mean: 13.6 years	39	30	NA for FOS 12/39 Sz free (30.7%) 5/39 responders (12.8%)	NA for FOS patients Incidence AE: 5/39 (12.8%) Most frequent: drowsiness (n=3/39; 7.7%). The occurrence of AEs did not differ significantly in patients with or without levetiracetam (including aggression) AE resolved following dose reduction or discontinuation of PER	NA

**Abbreviations:** AE, adverse events; FOS, focal-onset seizure; NA, not available; PER, perampanel; LEV, levetiracetam Sz, seizure; TC, tonic-clonic.

the disappearance of adverse events in most of the cases. Limited data on doses and titration were available. A titration of 2 mg per day every week or every 2 weeks was most of the time used (Table 2).

# Conclusion

As described above, adjunctive treatment with perampanel results in improved seizure control and is generally well-tolerated in children aged 12 years and over with inadequately focal-onset seizure control. Notably, a prospective pharmacological study showed no evidence for clinically short-term effects of perampanel on overall cognitive function and behavior in adolescents. If a patient is treated by an enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drug, a higher dose of perampanel may be required. Despite a new mechanism of action, the efficacy of perampanel for focal-onset seizures does not seem really different compared to other available antiepileptic drugs. The adverse events are marked by behavioral adverse events, which are more frequent in adolescents than in adults.

The physician's decision on the choice of an antiepileptic drug for a child with focal-onset seizures is largely dependent on the patient characteristics and on literature about efficacy and safety profiles of these various drugs. Evidence-based guidelines are limited due to the absence of head-to-head comparison of antiepileptic drugs. The pharmacological profile of the compound and the adverse event profile are also taken into consideration. For perampanel, the once-daily administration and the long half-life represent two advantages for its use in the adolescent population. The low level of interaction with other drugs is also a positive point for female patients that might take oral contraceptives (estrogen–progesterone). The use of perampanel should probably be more cautious when a history of behavior comorbidity already exists in children and adolescents.

Drug development of perampanel is still ongoing in the pediatric population. Further studies should evaluate if there is any long-term effect of perampanel on cognition, growth and development in adolescents. An open-label study is currently ongoing on the evaluation of safety and tolerability of a perampanel oral suspension as adjunctive treatment (ages from 4 to 12 years) for children with inadequately controlled partial-onset seizures or primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures (NCT02849626). With the recent regulatory evolution on extrapolability of the data on the efficacy on adults, this study will probably lead



soon to an application for drug approval for uncontrolled focal-onset seizures from 4 to 12 years in Europe.

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