

Healthcare Resource Utilisation, Antiseizure Medication Claims, and Treatment Persistence in Patients With Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Receiving Fenfluramine in the United States

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QUESTION

- What are the real-world changes in healthcare resource utilisation (HCRU) and antiseizure medication (ASM) use among patients with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) before and after initiating fenfluramine?
- What is the 12-month treatment persistence with fenfluramine in patients with LGS?
- How do characteristics differ between patients with and without fenfluramine claims?

INVESTIGATION

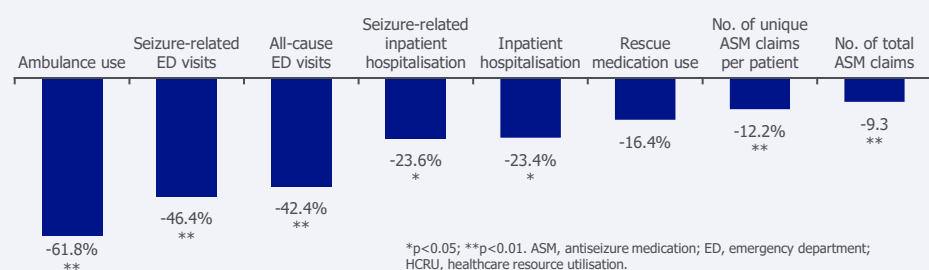
- Retrospective study of patients with LGS claims (International Classification of Disease, 10th Revision, G40.81) using the Komodo US healthcare claims database.
- HCRU analyses:** Patients with ≥ 1 fenfluramine claim, ≥ 2 LGS claims, 12 months of data pre- and post-fenfluramine initiation, and 12 months of persistent fenfluramine use.

- Persistence analyses:** Patients with ≥ 1 fenfluramine claim, ≥ 1 LGS claim, and ≥ 3 months of pre- and ≥ 6 months of post-fenfluramine initiation claims data.
- Comparisons of patient characteristics:** Patients with fenfluramine claims vs those with no claims.

RESULTS

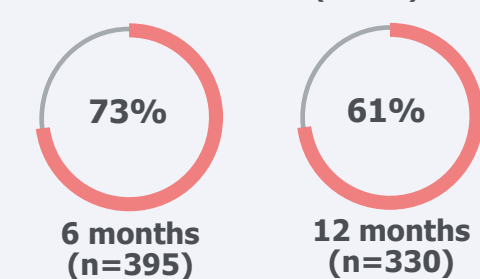
HCRU analysis

Percentage change in HCRU after fenfluramine initiation (N=148)



Persistence analysis

Patients with fenfluramine persistence at 6 and 12 months (N=544)



Comparison of patients with and without fenfluramine claims

Demographics and clinical characteristics during baseline period

	FFA claims	
	Yes (n=373)	No (n=2361)
Patient characteristics		
Mean age at index, years	16	38**
Mean HCRU severity score	128.3	57.1**
Mean pre-index HCRU claims, n		
ED visits	1.6	1.1**
Status epilepticus	12.7	4.3**
Unique ASMs	5.8	3.7**
Rescue medications	3.3	1.0**
Patients with comorbidities, %		
Behavioural disorders	38	29**
Respiratory/CV complications	69	51**
Developmental impairments	76	38**
Gastrointestinal disorders	53	41**
Mobility dysfunction	36	22**
Sleep disturbances ^a	28	16**

**p<0.01. ^aincludes sleep apnoea. ASM, antiseizure medication; CV, cardiovascular; ED, emergency department; FFA, fenfluramine; HCRU, healthcare resource utilisation.

CONCLUSIONS

- Among patients with LGS who remained on treatment for 12 months, fenfluramine was associated with lower HCRU and reduced ASM burden.
- Treatment persistence was high among patients with LGS receiving fenfluramine, with rates of 73% and 61% at 6 and 12 months, respectively.
- Patients who received fenfluramine were younger, had a higher incidence of comorbidities, and had a greater HCRU burden than those without fenfluramine claims, indicating more severe disease.

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Background

- Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) is a rare, severe, developmental and epileptic encephalopathy characterised by treatment-resistant seizures that begin in childhood and persist into adulthood.
- Fenfluramine was approved for the management of seizures associated with LGS in patients ≥ 2 years of age in the United States in 2022.¹
- Fenfluramine differs from other treatments for developmental and epileptic encephalopathies due to its multimodal mechanism of action, which involves both serotonergic and sigma-1 receptor pathways.²
- Real-world evidence on fenfluramine use in patients with LGS remains limited with respect to treatment persistence and patient characteristics.

Objective

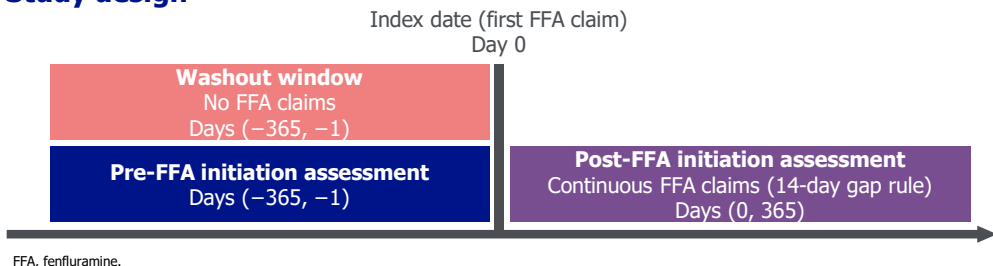
- To assess healthcare resource utilisation (HCRU), antiseizure medication (ASM) treatment claims, and treatment persistence in patients with LGS receiving fenfluramine.

Methods

- In this retrospective study, patients with LGS claims (International Classification of Disease, 10th Revision, G40.81) were identified from the Komodo US healthcare claims database.

HCRU ANALYSIS

Study design



- The patient selection period was 1 January 2022, to 31 December 2024.
- Eligible patients had ≥ 1 fenfluramine prescription claim (earliest claim: initiation date) and ≥ 2 LGS claims (≥ 1 month apart), 12 months of claims data pre- and post-fenfluramine initiation, and received fenfluramine for ≥ 12 months with no gaps of >14 days.
- Differences in HCRU, number of unique ASM claims, and average ASM claims (excluding fenfluramine) pre- vs post-fenfluramine initiation were assessed using paired t-tests.
- Interrupted time series (ITS) analyses using a generalised estimating equation were conducted to control for time trends.
- Propensity score-matched cohort difference-in-difference (DiD) regression analyses were used to assess robustness vs a matched control group (patients with ≥ 1 LGS claim and no fenfluramine claims).

PERSISTENCY ANALYSIS

- The patient selection period was 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2024.
- Eligible patients had ≥ 1 fenfluramine claim (earliest claim: initiation date), ≥ 1 LGS claim, and ≥ 3 months of pre- and ≥ 6 months of post-fenfluramine initiation claims data.
- Treatment persistence (no gaps in fenfluramine claims >90 days in the first 12 months post initiation) was evaluated using Kaplan-Meier analysis.

COMPARISON OF PATIENTS WITH AND WITHOUT FENFLURAMINE CLAIMS

- The patient selection period was 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.
- Eligible patients had claims data for 12 months pre- and post-index date.
- Two-sample t-tests and chi-square tests were used to compare demographic and clinical characteristics for patients with fenfluramine claims (regardless of persistence) vs those with ≥ 1 LGS claim and no fenfluramine claims.

Results

HCRU ANALYSIS

HCRU and ASM claims in 12 months pre- and post-fenfluramine initiation (N=148)

	Pre-FFA initiation, mean	Post-FFA initiation, mean	% change	P-value
Ambulance use ^a	0.5	0.2	-61.8	<0.01
Seizure-related ED visits ^a	1.3	0.7	-46.4	<0.01
All-cause ED visits ^a	1.4	0.8	-42.4	<0.01
Seizure-related inpatient hospitalisation ^a	4.0	3.0	-23.6	0.04
Inpatient hospitalisation ^a	4.0	3.1	-23.4	0.04
Rescue medication use ^b	3.3	2.8	-16.4	0.08
No. of unique ASM claims/patient ^{b,c}	3.4	3.0	-12.2	<0.01
No. of total ASM claims ^{b,c}	31.9	28.9	-9.3	<0.01

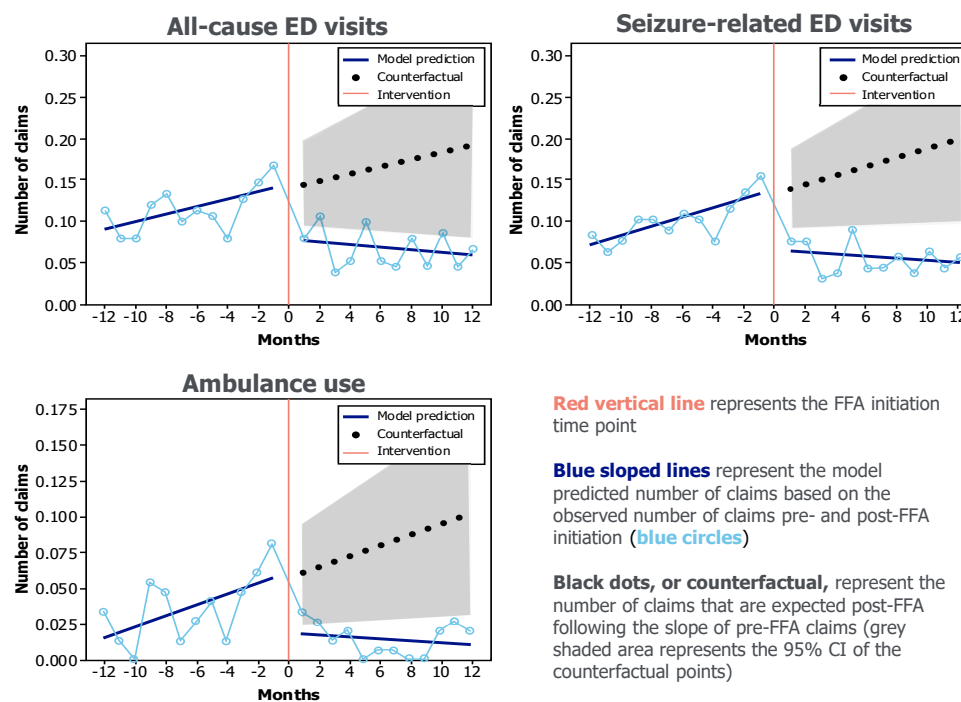
p<0.05 is considered significant. The index date is the date of the first FFA prescription claim. ^aPaired t-tests performed to assess the difference in the average number of claims pre- and post-index; ^bPaired t-tests performed to assess the difference in the average number of claims per patient pre- and post-index; ^cASMs excluding FFA. ASM, antiseizure medication; ED, emergency department; FFA, fenfluramine; HCRU, healthcare resource utilisation.

Demographics and clinical characteristics

	Patients with LGS (N=148)
Male, n (%)	76 (51)
Age at index date, n (%)	
<18 years	81 (55)
≥ 18 years	67 (45)
Comorbidities, n (%)^{a,b}	
Developmental complications	118 (80)
Respiratory/cardiovascular complications	104 (70)
Gastrointestinal issues	81 (55)
Behavioural/psychiatric disorders	53 (36)
Mobility issues/wheelchair use	52 (35)
Sleep disturbances, including sleep apnoea	45 (30)
Payer type, n (%)	
Commercial	84 (57)
Medicaid	41 (28)
Medicare	10 (7)
Unknown	13 (9)
Prescribing physician, n (%)	
Epileptologist	35 (24)
Paediatric neurologist	35 (24)
Paediatric neurologist/epileptologist	29 (20)
Neurologist	12 (8)
Adult neurologist/epileptologist	11 (7)
Paediatrician	10 (7)
Nurse practitioner or physician's assistant	1 (1)
Unknown	15 (10)
Specialty physician type, n (%)^a	
Epileptologist at COE ^c	109 (74)
Epileptologist outside of COE ^c	22 (15)
Paediatric neurologist	14 (9)
Neurologist	3 (2)
Other, non-prescription treatments, n (%)^d	
Yes	81 (55)
No	67 (45)

^aPre-fenfluramine initiation; ^bPatients may have >1 comorbidity; ^cLevel 4 National Association of Epilepsy Centres; ^dIncludes vagal nerve stimulation, deep brain stimulation, neurostimulation, and epilepsy surgery. COE, Centres of Excellence; LGS, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

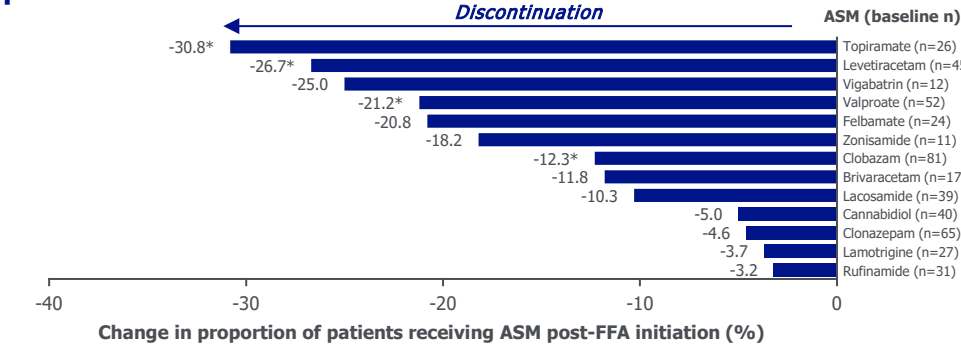
Interrupted time series analysis (N=148)



A generalised estimating equation was used: $y(t) = \beta_1 * \text{time from start} + \beta_2 * \text{treatment variable (0/1)} + \beta_3 * \text{time since treatment} + \epsilon$. CI, confidence interval; ED, emergency department; FFA, fenfluramine.

- ITS analyses showed immediate reductions in claims at fenfluramine initiation and continued improvement over 12 months for all-cause and seizure-related emergency department (ED) visits and ambulance use.
- DiD regression analyses confirmed these reductions were significant when compared with matched controls.

Change in concomitant ASM prescriptions from pre- to post-fenfluramine initiation

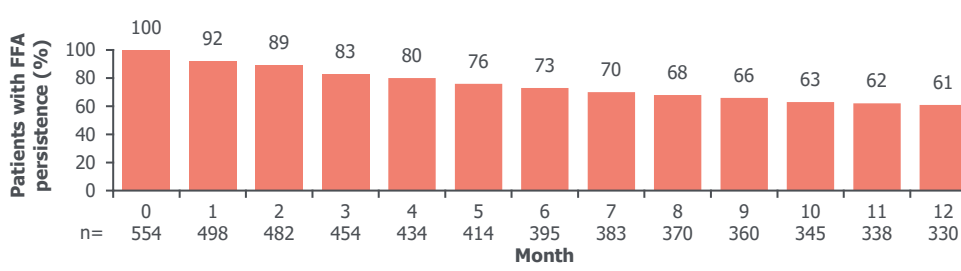


*p<0.05. Post-FFA initiation, 4.8% and 8.1% of patients had a new prescription claim for clobazam (n=21) and oxcarbazepine (n=11), respectively. ASM, antiseizure medication; FFA, fenfluramine.

- Post-fenfluramine initiation, a significant proportion of patients discontinued topiramate, levetiracetam, valproate, and clobazam (p<0.05 for all).

PERSISTENCY ANALYSIS

Fenfluramine persistence across the first year (N=544)^a



^aPersistence analysis cohort included patients with ≥ 6 months of continuous follow-up after their first FFA prescription claim. FFA, fenfluramine.

COMPARISON OF PATIENTS WITH AND WITHOUT FENFLURAMINE CLAIMS

Demographics and clinical characteristics during baseline period

	FFA claims		
	Yes (N=373) ^a	No (N=2361) ^b	p-value
Mean age at index,^c years	16	38	<0.01
Sex, n (%)			
Male	184 (49)	1297 (55)	0.05
Physician specialty, n (%)			
Epileptologists at COE ^d	256 (69)	1071 (45)	<0.01
Epileptologist outside of COE ^d	65 (17)	516 (22)	0.06
Neurologist	10 (3)	376 (16)	<0.01
Paediatric neurologist	42 (11)	236 (10)	0.51
Other	0	162 (7)	<0.01
Comorbidities, n (%)			
Behavioural disorders	140 (38)	675 (29)	<0.01
Respiratory/cardiovascular complications	259 (69)	1207 (51)	<0.01
Developmental impairments	284 (76)	889 (38)	<0.01
Gastrointestinal disorders	197 (53)	973 (41)	<0.01
Mobility dysfunction	134 (36)	522 (22)	<0.01
Sleep disturbances, including sleep apnoea	105 (28)	388 (16)	<0.01
Comorbidity index, mean			
Charlson Comorbidity Index ^e	1.5	2.0	<0.01
Germaine Smith Index ^e	2.3	2.8	<0.01
Average ADI rank^f	47.7	45.2	0.03
HCRU severity score,^g mean	128.3	57.1	<0.01
Mean pre-index^h HCRU claims			
ED visits	1.6	1.1	<0.01
Length of inpatient stay	3.8	2.3	0.02
GTC seizures	1.2	0.5	0.06
Status epilepticus	12.7	4.3	<0.01
No. of unique ASMs	5.8	3.7	<0.01
No. of rescue medications	3.3	1.0	<0.01

^aPatients with FFA claims: ≥ 12 months of claims data pre- and post-first FFA claim; ^bPatients without any FFA claims: ≥ 12 months of claims data pre- and post-LGS diagnosis, and no FFA claims; ^cFor patients with FFA claims, the index date was date of first FFA claim. For patients without FFA claims, the index date was 1 January 2023 (which aligns closely with index dates in patients with FFA claims); ^dLevel 4 National Association of Epilepsy Centres; ^eData are not age adjusted; ^fHigher ADI rank indicative of greater socioeconomic disadvantage (100 is most disadvantaged); ^gUnvalidated weighted composite score of HCRU elements (ED visit, 10 points/visit; inpatient admissions, 5 points/day of stay; any status epilepticus claims, 5 points/claim; any GTC seizure claim, 4 points/claim; rescue medication, 4 points/claim; ASM, 2 points/distinct ASM molecule (if a patient had an ED visit for status epilepticus, points were counted for both the ED visit and the status epilepticus claim)).

ADI, Area Deprivation Index; ASM, antiseizure medication; COE, Centres of Excellence; ED, emergency department; FFA, fenfluramine; GTC, generalised tonic-clonic; HCRU, healthcare resource utilisation; LGS, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

CONCLUSIONS

- Among patients with LGS who continued to receive treatment for 12 months, fenfluramine was associated with lower HCRU and reduced ASM burden, suggesting a clinically meaningful reduction in disease burden.
- Fenfluramine use was associated with reductions in ED visits (all-cause and seizure-related), inpatient hospitalisations (all-cause and seizure-related), and ambulance use.
- The results for ED visits and ambulance use remained robust, following more rigorous analytical approaches.
- Mean total ASM claims and number of unique concomitant ASMs per patient decreased following fenfluramine initiation.
- Treatment persistence was high among patients with LGS receiving fenfluramine, with rates of 73% and 61% at 6 and 12 months, respectively.
- Patients who received fenfluramine were younger, had a higher comorbidity burden, and had a higher HCRU burden (including claims for status epilepticus, concomitant ASMs, and rescue medications) than those without fenfluramine claims, indicating more severe disease.
- While claims data limit the direct measurement of seizure and non-seizure outcomes, these findings reflect sustained treatment in $>60\%$ of patients at 12 months and support the real-world utility of fenfluramine in LGS.

References

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2. Martin P, et al. *Epilepsy Behav* 2020;105:106989.

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