Teaching the 6 Criteria of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology for Defining Interictal Epileptiform Discharges on EEG Using a Visual Graphic

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The 6 operational criteria for defining interictal epileptiform discharges (IEDs) proposed by the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology simplify IED identification into a series of systematic feature extraction tasks. The presence of at least 4 criteria defines a sharp transient as epileptiform.1 The criteria displayed in the teaching graphic (Figure) can be used to train novice EEG readers how to critically appraise the components of a sharp transient.2,3 The visual-based, systematic teaching method ensures that trainees can accurately and reliably identify IEDs on EEG.4 We use this graphic to teach the criteria to trainees and as a visual aid when applying the criteria during supervised EEG reading sessions.

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