Frequently Asked Questions

Are there certain specific AEDs which are known to affect memory or processing speed and how do we find out about that?

Yes, Topamax, Depakote, and Zonisimide are known to have potential cognitive side effects. Additionally, any AEDs causing fatigue or sedation (eg, Onfi) or sleep disruption (eg, those causing nighttime activation) may have an impact on learning.

Another thing to consider is that if children are having behavioral side effects, that can interfere with learning via reduced frustration tolerance or attention that can then impact skill acquisition and retention apart from directly impacting cognition. There is also a recent article that looks at psych and behavior side effects in the new vs old epilepsy meds:

[Psychiatric and behavioral side effects of anti-epileptic drugs in adolescents and children with epilepsy.](#)

Can you speak to the importance of coordinating with school health staff?

It is important to have children in school as much as possible and to help all caregivers in the school (teachers, nurses, etc.) be comfortable with identifying seizures and other factors can help with this. Utilize seizure action plans and communicate this plan with school personnel to help empower school personnel to manage students with seizures.

[Example of Seizure Action Plan](#)

Refer school personnel to Epilepsy Foundation school training programs.

Can you speak to the diagnosis/management of depression among CYE?

Please refer to [Session 3 Part 1 from March 21, 2019](#) which went into detail on depression and CYE.