Deception in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychogenic Non-epileptic Seizures

Thursday, February 4th, 4:30-6:00pm

Harvard Medical School TMEC 250
260 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115
Non-Harvard affiliates must register to attend: http://bit.ly/1lvPzCS
Please bring proof of ID to the event due to building security.

Neurologists who treat epilepsy face substantial difficulty distinguishing "true" seizures caused by abnormal electrical discharges from seizures that are caused by psychological factors (psychogenic nonepileptic seizures, or PNES). The distinction is important, because the treatments for electrical seizures and PNES are very different--PNES can be provoked by a suggestion, whereas electrical seizures cannot.

Can doctors ethically use placebos or suggestion in order to provoke psychogenic nonepileptic seizures? If this is deception, is it justified? How much deception is permissible?

Panelists

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The Neuroethics Seminar Series is designed to explore a diverse range of subjects at the intersection of neuroscience and ethics. In a typical seminar, three expert discussants will come together to explore a topic. In the 90-minute seminar, at least 30 minutes are reserved for discussion and audience participation. Learn more about the series and watch previous lectures: bioethics.hms.harvard.edu/neuroethics-seminar-series

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