

Targeted Research Initiative for Seniors

Meritorious Research 2009

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Application Title:

Continuous Electroencephalography in Sepsis-Associated Encephalopathy

Award Amount: \$75,000

General Audience Summary:

Sepsis is a severe infection that is often accompanied by confusion or even unresponsiveness, known as sepsis-associated encephalopathy (SAE). SAE is related to long-term memory difficulties, particularly in the elderly. Recent research suggests that some patients with SAE have seizures, treatable episodes of abnormal electrical brain activity that can be detected with electrodes on the scalp (an EEG). Although some seizures cause shaking/stiffening, patients with SAE may only have impaired mental status. This project will define how common seizures are in patients with SAE, who is at highest risk, and if seizures contribute to worse outcome, including long term cognition.