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increased production of melatonin<sup>1</sup> in  
that have a proconvulsant effect in pa-  
tients with FS<sup>3</sup>. Also, the high prevalence  
of family history of FS and occurrence of  
FS in homozygous twins suggest that ge-  
netic factors may play an important role in

a major proportion of patients in the pe-  
diatric group<sup>5</sup>. Unfortunately, individuals  
with epilepsy are at a higher risk of death  
than those from the general population  
and each year, about 1:500 to 1:1000 pa-  
tients with chronic epilepsy will die sud-

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Mutation in potassium channel genes (KCNQ1, KCNH2, KCNE1 and KCNE2) and sodium channel genes (SCN5A) has been related to neonatal seizures and long QT syndrome<sup>24</sup> and over one third of referred cases of SUDEP were found to harbor a genetic arrhythmia-susceptibility mutation<sup>20,25</sup>. Physiologic changes of mutated channels causing seizures or cardiac arrhythmias are similar<sup>25</sup>. Also, FS is currently observed in patients with epileptic syndromes associated with genetic mutations in

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