



The Role of Heart and Brain in the Loss of Consciousness: Best Frenemies?

Guest Editors:

Dr. Elena Pasini

Unit of Neurology, IRCCS Istituto delle Scienze Neurologiche di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Prof. Dr. Roberto Michelucci

Unit of Neurology, IRCCS Istituto delle Scienze Neurologiche di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Since ancient times, physicians have been fascinated by the complex and heterogeneous interaction between the heart and brain. The most frequent heart–brain pathology is the loss of consciousness which, with a lifetime prevalence of 50% in the general population, is one of the most common medical problems. Seizures, syncope, and psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES) account for about 90% of loss-of-consciousness cases. The limbic system is the common thread of many of these conditions, justifying situational syncope as well as focal epileptic seizures with arrhythmia. However, the constellation of different loss of consciousness mechanisms is much more varied. Recent studies on heart rate variability in epileptic patients have documented its relevance in predicting seizures. In this Special Issue, we welcome the submission of original basic and clinical research, articles, and reviews aimed at elucidating the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying the brain–heart relationship and speeding up the diagnosis and management of these patients.





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Editors-in-Chief

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Internal Medicine Department,
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67000 Strasbourg, France

Prof. Dr. Kent Doi

Department of Acute Care
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Journal of Clinical Medicine Editorial
Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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