

About Epilepsy and Seizures

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that occurs when nerve cells in your brain misfire. While everyone with epilepsy experiences seizures differently, most people suffer from generalized seizures.

The symptoms of a generalized seizure are:

- Muscle spasms & shaking
- Loss of consciousness
- Tensing muscles
- Loss of bowel & bladder control

The symptoms of a petit mal seizure are:

- Lack of awareness
- Unresponsiveness (staring blankly)
- Eyes rolling into the back of the head
- Loss of balance

FAQ:

How many people have epilepsy? Worldwide, about 50 million people have epilepsy. 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lives. Epilepsy is most common in young children and the elderly.

Can I catch or develop epilepsy? For 2 out of 3 people, the cause of epilepsy is unknown. In some cases, people develop epilepsy after a traumatic brain injury or other illness. Epilepsy is also known to be genetic.

Is everyone with epilepsy light-sensitive? Not all people with epilepsy have sensitivity to light. Epilepsy is different for everyone. People with epilepsy each have different "triggers" (things that cause a seizure), and some have no triggers at all.

Can't photosensitive people just close their eyes? Not quite! While closing your eyes may dull the sensitivity, the rapid on-and-off of some lights may still trigger a seizure.

How is epilepsy treated? Doesn't smoking weed help with epilepsy? Everyone's epilepsy is different and responds to different treatment. Most people are on some sort of medication to control their seizures. And yes, it does! But it is not always the right treatment for an individual, or viable option for a lot of people.

How can I help someone w/epilepsy? First aid info is on the other side :)