

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What kind of seizures do I have?

You may already know the answer to this question. If not, you can discuss this with your doctor.



Will I have seizures for the rest of my life?

For some people with epilepsy, it is a childhood disorder that goes into remission (the seizures go away). For other people with epilepsy, it is a lifelong condition.¹



Will I have to take medications for the rest of my life?

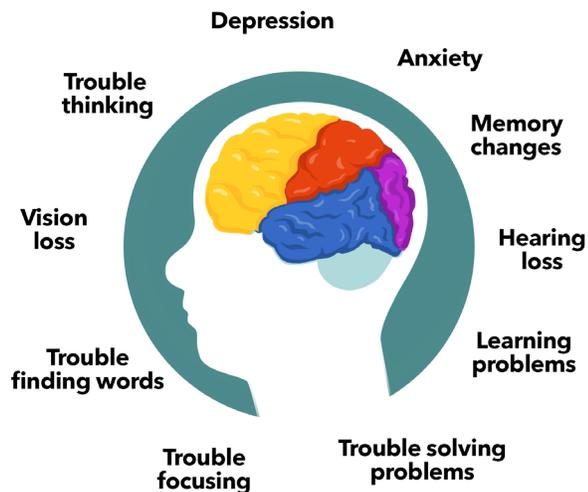
This will depend on how your seizures change during your life and how well the medications you are taking control your seizures.² We will talk more about your specific medications during subsequent visits.

Can the type of seizures I have change?

The type of seizures, how often you have seizures, and how severe the seizures are may change over time.¹

Do seizures cause brain damage?

Some people with epilepsy may have changes in their brain caused by seizures that lead to problems. For example, some people may have trouble thinking, focusing, or solving problems. Some people have memory changes or have learning problems because of their epilepsy.¹



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Can seizures damage other parts of my body?

Some people with epilepsy may have accidents or injuries because of seizures. For example, if you fall during a seizure, it's possible you could break a bone. We'll talk more about safety concerns for people with epilepsy in Module 3. It's also possible that seizures can lead to some hearing or vision loss in some people.¹



Can I die from a seizure?



It's possible to die from a seizure. There is something called sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) that is the most common cause of epilepsy-related deaths.¹ SUDEP is more common in people with generalized tonic-clonic seizures.³ We'll cover SUDEP in more detail in Module 3.

People with epilepsy have a greater chance of experiencing accidents and injuries. Therefore, an accident or injury resulting from a seizure could be severe enough to cause death.¹ There are things you can do to potentially eliminate this risk. We'll talk about safety concerns for people with epilepsy in a separate visit.

Will my kids have epilepsy?

Probably not, but it's possible. Most children will not inherit epilepsy from a parent. For example, if a mother has epilepsy and the father does not, the risk of their child having epilepsy is less than 5 in 100. In other words, if there were 100 couples where the mother has epilepsy and the father does not, less than 5 out of 100 of their babies would inherit epilepsy.⁴



References

1. England MJ, Liverman CT, Schultz AM, Strawbridge LM, eds. *Epilepsy Across the Spectrum. Promoting Health and Understanding*. Washington, DC: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. The National Academies Press; 2012.
2. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The Epilepsies and Seizures: Hope Through Research. http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/epilepsy/detail_epilepsy.htm. February 2016.
3. Epilepsy Foundation SUDEP Institute. About SUDEP: A Deadly Result of Uncontrolled Seizures. Epilepsy Foundation. <http://www.epilepsy.com/aimforzero/about-sudep>. September 2016.
4. Epilepsy Foundation. Is Epilepsy Inherited? <http://www.epilepsy.com/learn/epilepsy-101/epilepsy-inherited>. July 2013.