

Seizures

Seizures are sudden, uncontrolled changes in brain activity. This is often described as having convulsions, spells and attacks. **Epilepsy** refers to having seizures over time.

Signs of Seizures

Sometimes people feel a warning sign before the seizure. This may be a funny feeling, a headache, vision change or a strange noise. The time between the warning sign and the seizure varies.

During a seizure there may be:

- Uncontrollable body motions such as body stiffening, jerking or facial twitching
- Staring spells
- Problems breathing
- Drooling
- Loss of bowel or bladder control
- Confusion

The person will be very tired and confused after the seizure. **Try to write down what happens during the seizure. Include the date, time, how long it lasted, and exactly what happened.**

Causes of Seizures

It is not always known why people have seizures. Causes may include:

- Head injury
- Pressure on the brain from a tumor, infection or bleeding
- High fevers
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- A problem you are born with
- Medicines

Your Care

Your doctor will try to find the cause of your seizures. Treatment may include medicine or surgery. Most seizures can be managed with medicine.

Take the medicine as ordered. Wear a medical identification bracelet or pendant. People who have seizures may not be allowed to drive.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns or for information about support groups.