Knowing epilepsy

Epilepsy is one of the most common serious neurological conditions in the world. Epilepsy is a condition that affects the brain. When someone has epilepsy, it means they have a tendency to have epileptic seizures. A seizure happens when there is a sudden burst of intense electrical activity in the brain.¹

Epilepsy is usually only diagnosed if a doctor thinks there's a high chance that the person could have more seizures.¹



Epileptic seizures

How a seizure affects you depends on what area of the brain is involved in this intense electrical activity. It can cause changes in behavior, movements or feelings, and in levels of consciousness.²



Focal seizures: manifested with or without motor symptoms and impaired awareness, and occurs in half of childhood seizures.³ These start in an area or network of cells on one side of the brain.⁴



Generalized seizures: manifest with or without motor symptoms, and lead to loss of consciousness.³ These engage or involve networks on both sides of the brain at the onset.⁴

😐 Who is affected?

Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological diseases and affects people of all ages⁵, being more frequent in:⁶



Children 5–9 years⁶



Adults > 80 years⁶

¿ Causes

Etiologies: structural, genetic, infectious, metabolic, immune and unknown.7



Congenital abnormalities or genetic conditions with associated brain malformations.⁷

Brain damage from prenatal or perinatal causes.⁷

A severe head injury.⁷



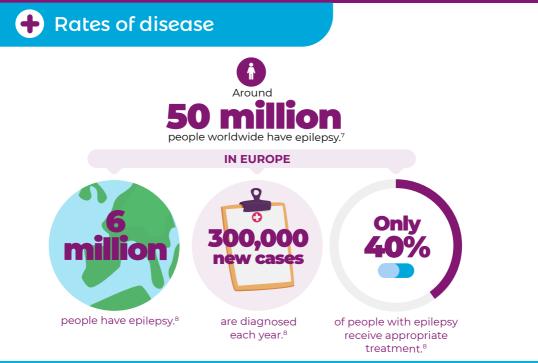
A stroke that restricts the amount of oxygen to the brain.⁷



An infection of the brain (meningitis, encephalitis...).⁷



A brain tumour.⁷





of people living with epilepsy could become seizure free with appropriate use of antiseizure medicines.⁷



~100,000 children and adolescents are diagnosed with epilepsy each year in EU.⁹

- Children with seizures can and should lead a normal active life.¹⁰
- Understanding epilepsy, taking responsibility for their medications, and knowing risk behaviors will help teens normalize epilepsy.¹⁰



www.knowingepilepsy.com

REFERENCES

Epilepsy Action website. About epilepsy. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info 2. MayoClinic. Patient Care & Health Information. Disease & Conditions. Seizures - Symptoms & causes. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/seizure/symptoms-causes/syc-20365711 3. Epilepsy Action website. Epilepsy seizures. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/seizures-explained 4. Epilepsy Foundation. 2017 Revised classification of Seizures. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.epilepsy.com/article/2016/12/2017-revised-classification-seizures 5. Beghi E. The Epidemiology of Epilepsy. Neuroepidemiology. 2020;54:185–191 6. GBD 2016 Epilepsy Collaborators. Global, regional, and national burden of epilepsy, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. Lancet Neurol. 2019 Apr;18(4):357-375. 7. WHO, World Health Organization. Epilepsy. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/info/seizures/accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/in84(Histor - Studies). Epilepsy 8. Epilepsy Alliance Europe. Background. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.epilepsylalianceeurope.org/about/background/ 9. Baulac M, et al. Epilepsy priorities in Europe: A report of the ILAE-IBE. Epilepsy Advocacy Europe Task Force. Epilepsia. 2015; 56(11):687-1695. 10. WHO, epilepsy in the WHO European region: Fostering Epilepsy Care in Europe. Accessed January 2021. Available in: https://www.who.int/mental_health/neurology/epilepsyleuro_report.pdf?ua=1