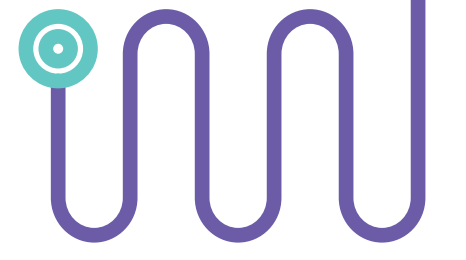




WHEN TO SEE AN Q&A: EPILEPTOLOGIST



Q: WHAT IS AN EPILEPTOLOGIST?

- AN ADULT OR PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGIST WHO SPECIALIZES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY AND SEIZURE DISORDERS
- GENERALLY HOLD BOARD CERTIFICATION IN NEUROLOGY, NEUROSURGERY, OR PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY

Q: WHEN TO SEE AN EPILEPTOLOGIST?



- TO CONFIRM YOUR EPILEPSY DIAGNOSIS
- IF YOUR SEIZURES ARE NOT UNDER CONTROL AFTER THREE MONTHS OF CARE BY YOUR PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN OR AFTER ONE YEAR OF CARE BY A GENERAL NEUROLOGIST
- IF YOUR SEIZURES ARE NOT UNDER CONTROL DESPITE TRYING TWO OR THREE DIFFERENT MEDICATIONS
- IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING UNWANTED SIDE EFFECTS FROM MEDICATIONS
- IF YOU HAVE OTHER MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR CONSIDERATIONS THAT AFFECT OR ARE AFFECTED BY EPILEPSY
- IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR WANT TO BECOME PREGNANT



Q: WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK DURING MY VISIT?*

- WHAT TYPE OF EPILEPSY DO I HAVE?
- AM I LIKELY TO HAVE MORE SEIZURES IF I DON'T GET MEDICATION OR OTHER TREATMENTS?
- IF I NEED MEDICATION, WHAT SIDE EFFECTS CAN I EXPECT? WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I NOTICE THESE SIDE EFFECTS?
- WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE ANOTHER SEIZURE?
- IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO DRIVE? IF NOT, WHEN WILL IT BE SAFE TO START DRIVING AGAIN?
- IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO SWIM?
- ARE THERE ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES I SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN?
- IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO DRINK ALCOHOL?
- COULD BRAIN SURGERY BE EFFECTIVE IN STOPPING MY SEIZURES?
- WHAT SHOULD I TELL MY FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT THIS CONDITION?
- WHAT SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS FOR EPILEPSY ARE IN MY AREA?

*SOURCE: WEBMD MEDICAL REFERENCE REVIEWED BY NEIL LAVA, MD ON OCTOBER 21, 2018



Q: WHERE TO FIND AN EPILEPTOLOGIST?

- THE AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY WORKS TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH SEIZURES ARE ABLE TO GET THE ASSISTANCE THEY NEED.

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO SEARCH FOR A SPECIALIST BY STATE AND ZIP CODE:
[HTTPS://WWW.AESNET.ORG/FOR_PATIENTS/FIND_A_DOCTOR](https://www.aesnet.org/for_patients/find_a_doctor)