How do we acquire patients?
  • Self-referral
  • Physician - referral

What patients do we serve?
  • Patients who have seizures despite being on two or more medicines
  • Patients in need/want epilepsy surgery
  • Patients who want to contribute to science/medicine
  • Patients who want a 2nd opinion
  • Patients who are 8 years or older

What are the costs to the patients?
  • There are no cost to the patient while enrolled in this research study. Study visits may include clinical and research related activities such as: doctor visit; imaging (ex. MRI, PET, MEG, fMRI); epilepsy surgery; medications are at no cost to the patient while enrolled in our research protocol

Why do patients have to be enrolled in a research protocol?
  • The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center is a research hospital; all patients must be enrolled in a protocol to receive care. The epilepsy protocol is standard of care.

Will my neurologist have access to my medical record at the NIH?
  • Your participation will be kept confidential. If you want your neurologist to learn about your participation in the NIH study, you will have to sign a medical release document.

I am a referring neurologist how will I know what is going on with my patient?
  • If your patient is admitted, we round daily and will give you updated and the option to participate in rounds as often as you like. If your patient becomes a surgery candidate, we will ask you to participate, as you know the patient best. If you are unable to participate, we will send a summary of the conference with our recommendations.

Will the patient be automatically enrolled in a drug trial?
  • No – patients will never be automatically enrolled in any protocol.

What if the patient enrolls in a protocol and wants to withdraw?
  • Patients may withdraw at their convenience and will not be penalized.
The NIH is in Bethesda, Maryland (outside of DC), how does the patient get there?

- The NIH may provide support for transportation (ex. plane, train, bus) to the patient and a medical guardian. The NIH may also provide support for lodging.

If the patient needs/wants more information, who do they contact?

- They can call NIH Epilepsy program at 301-435-2952
- They can also email Epilepsy@nih.gov