
Update Dinner

Epilepsy Families Southeast Wisconsin is hosting an update dinner on November 13, 2025. The dinner will be held at Hilton Garden Inn Airport, 5890 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee. The dinner will begin at 5pm. There will also be a speaker who will talk about living with epilepsy. More information about the dinner and speaker will be coming soon.

UCLA Researchers Find How Epilepsy Genes Disrupt Different Brain Regions Using Stem Cell Models

The study focuses on developmental and epileptic encephalopathy type 13, or DEE-13, a rare childhood condition caused by certain variants in the SCN8A gene. Children with DEE-13 experience frequent seizures as well as developmental delays, intellectual disability, and autism spectrum disorder. Even in cases where powerful medications can reduce seizures, many children continue to face difficulties with learning, behavior and sleep that can be just as disruptive to daily life. New stem cell-based research from UCLA provides an early step toward understanding why current treatments often fall short, pointing to the

distinct effects that single disease-causing gene variants can have across different regions of the brain.

Read more at <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/epilepsy-genes-disrupt-brain-regions-stem-cell-model-ucla-research-discovery>

Website accessed on October 8, 2025.

Wait for Epilepsy Patients to See Relief

Antiseizure medications help the majority of people with focal epilepsy. Yet most will still have episodes for at least a year after their treatment begins, until their doctors can find the right drug and dosage for them. Results for nearly 450 men, women, and teens newly diagnosed with the disorder revealed that although more than half eventually received a medication or regimen that worked for them, major improvements were not achieved until an average of 12 months. “Our findings suggest that those with focal epilepsy should expect a long adjustment period as their healthcare provider determines the best treatment regimen for them,” said study senior author and neurologist Jacqueline A. French, MD.

Read more at <https://nyulangone.org/news/most-epilepsy-patients-wait-year-after-starting-treatment-seizure-relief>

Website accessed on October 9, 2025.

Blood Count to Predict Outcomes in Febrile

Infection-Related Epilepsy Syndrome (FIRES)

A recent study assessed whether complete blood count analyses during intensive care unit stay could predict 12-month outcomes in patients with FIRES, a form of new-onset refractory status epilepticus (NORSE). The study found that adults with unfavorable outcomes had elevated ratios of monocytes, which are the white blood cells which fight infection, relative to lymphocytes, another type of white blood cell that helps the immune system. In children, unfavorable outcomes correlated to increased red blood cell size. This study suggests that standard, readily available complete blood count metrics may serve as rapid, accessible prognostic tools in predicting the long-term outcomes following FIRES.

Read more at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.18605?af=R>

Website accessed on October 9, 2025.

SUDEP Risk Is Influenced by Genomics

In a recent study, scientists investigated common genetic variation as a contributing factor in sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP). Genetic data from patients who succumbed to SUDEP were compared to patients with epilepsy who had not succumbed to

SUDEP and from people without epilepsy. Scientists calculated polygenic risk scores based on common genetic variation and associated scores with SUDEP risk.

Read more at [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964\(25\)00285-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964(25)00285-3/fulltext)

Website accessed on October 9, 2025.