



MEDICATIONS

Anti-seizure drugs (ASDs) are the most common way of treating epilepsy and almost always the first treatment prescribed by physicians to reduce the occurrence of seizures. There are approximately 26 ASDs used to treat seizures, and different ASDs work for different seizures. The majority of people with epilepsy can have their seizures controlled with ASDs.

Every epilepsy patient is different. Even if they are on the same medication, the dosage can differ. If two individuals have the same type of seizure, they can be on different medications.

Some patients are on more than one anti-seizure drug.

Contact the prescribing physician for more information regarding medications.



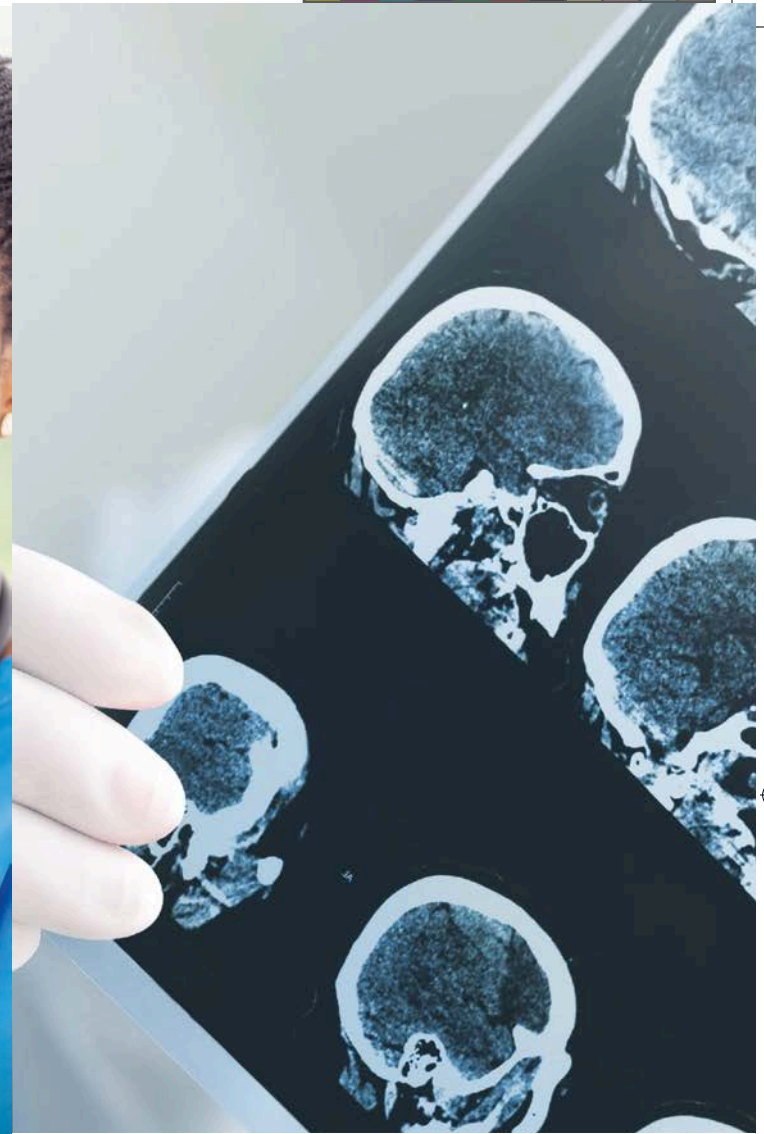
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EPILEPSY MONITORING UNIT.

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WHAT IS EPILEPSY?

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), epilepsy, also known as epilepsies, includes a spectrum of brain disorders ranging from severe, life-threatening and disabling to ones that are much more benign. With epilepsy, the normal pattern of neuronal activity becomes disturbed, causing strange emotions, sensations and behaviors or sometimes convulsions, muscle spasms and loss of consciousness.

Epilepsy, which is sometimes called a seizure disorder, is a disorder of the brain. A person is diagnosed with epilepsy when they have had two or more seizures. Epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder and affects people of all ages.

There are many possible causes of a seizure including, but not limited to, a brain tumor, stroke, head trauma and neurodegenerative disease. In addition, a significant portion of epilepsy cases are of unknown cause.

EPILEPSY MONITORING UNIT (EMU)

Diagnostic testing can lead to a new seizure treatment plan with the goal of reducing a patient's seizure burden and improving their quality of life.

There are different reasons to admit someone to the EMU. These include determining the type of seizure(s), where the seizures are occurring in the brain (localization), verifying the diagnosis, gauging response to and optimizing treatment and evaluating the potential for other non-pharmaceutical treatment options such as epilepsy surgery, responsive neuro-stimulation (RNS) or vagal nerve stimulation (VNS).

Our team-based approach means that we are able to continuously monitor patients in order to refine the diagnosis and respond in real time to a patient's needs as a seizure occurs.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A STAY IN THE EMU

Each private room is equipped with a video camera, microphone and special EEG equipment that records electrical activity of the brain to record seizures. This overnight diagnostic study can span multiple nights.

The exact duration of the stay will be determined by the epileptologist and may change based on the information obtained.

The goal of the McLaren Macomb Epilepsy Monitoring Unit is for each patient to be seizure free and to have no side effects. With the correct diagnoses and optimum treatment, the majority of all patients with epilepsy can lead independent and productive lives.

More information can be found at mclaren.org/macombepilepsy or by calling (586) 493-2591.

