



ercurrent

Monthly newsletter from the **epilepsy** RESOURCE CONNECTION

Awareness is Key in November

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month, a time to promote awareness of epilepsy—the third most common neurological disorder. ERC invites you to join in the nationwide campaign to raise awareness of Epilepsy and educate the public on first-aid tips for someone experiencing a seizure and acceptance. Few medical conditions have carried the mystique or generated as much controversy as epilepsy. Coping with societal challenges can be the most difficult part of having epilepsy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epilepsy affects an estimated 2.7 million people in the U.S. and 50 million worldwide. Each year, about 200,000 new cases are diagnosed in the U.S. More than one-third of persons with epilepsy continue to have seizures, despite treatment. There is no cure for Epilepsy and each year nearly 42,000 deaths occur due to seizure-related accidents.

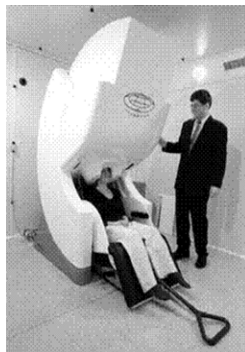
Although epilepsy can occur at any age, the condition is more likely to begin in childhood or older adulthood. The number of cases among older adults is increasing as the U.S. population ages. The effects of epilepsy also can affect the transition to adult activities (e.g., driving and working). A multi-state study by CDC indicated that approximately 1% of adults have active epilepsy, and many might not be receiving the best available medical care.

It has been estimated that 10% of the American population will experience a seizure in their lifetime. More people are diagnosed with epilepsy or seizure disorders than with Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy combined. Every year there are nearly 181,000 newly diagnosed epilepsy cases in the US, over 45,000 thousand of these are children under 15 years of age. Epilepsy is defined as the recurrence of two or more unprovoked seizures requiring long-term treatment with anti-epileptic (AE) medication. ©EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

New Brain Scanning Device Can Better Control Seizures

Doctors are now using a new kind of brain scan called magnetoencephalography (MEG), which measures brain activity in real time. In some cases, MEG can pinpoint the source of an epileptic seizure much more accurately than the traditional method of electroencephalography (EEG). Using a combination of MEG and MRI, neurosurgeons have a detailed brain map that allows them to remove just the damaged tissue while preserving healthy cells.

MEG (shown below) works by measuring the magnetic field created by brain activity in real time. Unlike other imaging tools that sample brain activity several or tens or hundreds of times, this imaging technology can take thousands of samples every second.



The spatial distributions of the magnetic fields are analyzed to localize the sources of the activity within the brain, and the locations of the sources are superimposed on anatomical images, such as MRI, to provide information about both the structure and function of the brain.

Using a combination of MEG and MRI, neurosurgeons have a detailed brain map guiding them during surgery to remove just the damaged tissue, while preserving healthy cells. MEG can also help identify the functional centers of the brain responsible for language, vision, motor and sensory information.

Researchers say in the future, the MEG brain scanner may aid in the diagnosis and study of other disorders like dementia, migraines, Parkinson's disease, depression and traumatic brain injuries, in addition to epilepsy. ©SCIENCE DAILY

erc Christmas Party & Lights Tour

For Persons with Epilepsy and their families

Saturday, December 6, 2008

4:00 - 7:00PM

The Arc of Sedgwick County

2919 W. Second Street

*Join us for some holiday fun, dinner
and our annual tour of Wichita's best lights.*

Reservations are required.

Please call (316) 943-1191





The Arc of Sedgwick County
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ERC@arc-sedgwickcounty.org



Sedgwick County...
working for you

More than 1 million Lights!



Thanksgiving thru DEC 28

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wichita, KS
Permit No. 55

Online Epilepsy Resources

EpilepsyEmpowerment.com helps you gain support and insight from the valuable stories and knowledge from others dealing with epilepsy. This new website is working to help valuable conversations take place. Patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals can connect to share insights and support with one another.



Site also includes stories from patients and families about some of their experiences while working to get more control over seizures and epilepsy. By connecting with others and helping them become aware of a variety of treatment options, the website aims to give those affected by epilepsy hope that they can find solutions and answers for ways they have been challenged by the condition.

Be sure to check out C2C: Connect to Conquer Epilepsy—*sort of a Facebook for epilepsy!* Users can create their own personal profile detailing how they as epilepsy patients, caregivers, or healthcare professionals have been impacted by the condition. Through C2C, you can then share your story and search for and e-mail other members who may be facing familiar struggles or celebrating similar successes. You can also create your own seizure plan on the site.

EpilepsyClassroom.com has tools and tips for parents and teachers including how to talk about epilepsy, lesson plans, and seizure first aid. In addition, it has created a program for teachers to help them bring epilepsy awareness to their class in a factual and informative manner. This program delivers accurate and helpful information about epilepsy to both students and teachers. This not only helps to inform students about epilepsy, but also works to create an understanding and acceptance of those who are living with epilepsy.

EpilepsyAdvocate.com has information on L.I.V.E. Webcasts, living with epilepsy, insight and advice from epilepsy advocates, Epilepsy Advocate magazine, and more.

Epilepsy Advocates are a community of people and their families living with all types of epilepsy. Get to know the inspirational stories of Epilepsy Advocates, people like you who are Visit the site often for more information, insight, and support. And be inspired today—hear the stories our Advocates are sharing.

OvationSHARE.com provides SHARE — Support, Help And Resources for Epilepsy.

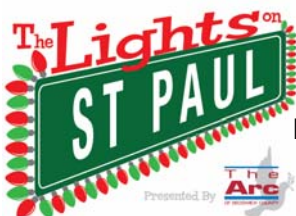
SHARE provides tools and resources to aid patient education; Patient Assistance Program providing reimbursement support; and even a downloadable seizure diary. You can track your medications, seizures, and therapies on this seizure diary. ↵

FDA Approves BANZEL™ as Treatment for Lennox-Gastaut

The FDA has approved BANZEL™ for the adjunctive treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) in children 4 years and older and adults. One of the most severe forms of childhood epilepsy, LGS is characterized by multiple and frequent seizures. LGS accounts for 1 to 4% of all childhood epilepsy cases; approximately 300,000 children under the age of 14 in the U.S. have epilepsy. Eisai Co. received a complete response letter for BANZEL™ as an adjunctive treatment for partial-onset seizures with and without secondary generalization in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older. BANZEL™ for LGS will be available to the public in January 2009.

A double-blind, placebo-controlled pivotal study of LGS patients treated with BANZEL™ as adjunctive therapy showed a 42.5% median reduction in frequency of drop attacks, seizures that cause a person to lose consciousness and fall to the ground, compared with a 1.4% median increase for placebo-treated patients. Drop attacks are a primary cause of injury in LGS patients. "People living with LGS need more treatment options," said Tracy Glauser, MD, Director, Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Ohio, and lead investigator in a clinical trial for BANZEL™. "What's exciting about this study is that BANZEL™ was effective and generally well tolerated in children with LGS whose seizures were previously uncontrolled on other multiple antiepileptic medications."

LGS is a disease that is devastating to the lives of patients and caregivers. Children usually experience the onset of LGS between the ages of 1 and 5 years old; approximately 3 to 7% of LGS patients die within a mean follow-up period of less than 10 years. The condition is difficult to treat, with patients often taking multiple antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in attempts to control the seizures. The multiple types and frequency of seizures can lead to developmental delays, as well as behavioral disorders. Symptoms of LGS include a variety of seizure types, with tonic (muscle stiffening), atonic (loss of muscle tone/drop attacks) and absence (staring) seizures being the most common. Atonic seizures lead to the sudden falls seen in LGS patients known as "drop attacks," a primary cause of injury. Tonic-clonic (grand mal), myoclonic (sudden muscle jerks) and other seizure types can also occur. BANZEL™ is a triazole derivative that is structurally unrelated to currently marketed antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). It is believed to exert its effect by regulating the activity of sodium channels in the brain which carry excessive electrical charges that may cause seizures. ↵EISAI & REUTERS HEALTH



Come join us for the
Lights on St. Paul!
Thanksgiving - Dec. 28th
Lights open at 6PM Daily.

Starts on Douglas between
West Street & Meridian.

Adult Epilepsy Support Group

Group Meets Second Tuesday of the month.
LOCATION: 2919 W. Second Street in Wichita • TIME: 5:00 PM

December 9th
Stress: An Epilepsy Trigger

