

Genetic and Chromosome Abnormalities

Epilepsy

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Epilepsy Defined

- Group of neurological diseases
- Brief episode's and long periods of uncontrollable shaking
- Slight genetic link that can be passed down through family
- 180,000 new cases of epilepsy each year, 30% of those cases are in children and teens
- It effects more than 3 million people in the U.S

Epilepsy Symptoms

- Uncontrollable shaking can result in broken bones and strokes
- Seizure is a burst in their brain beyond the normal limits
- The burst spreads and creates uncontrollable activity
- They can have symptoms of repetitive behavior, lack of movement, and "spacing out"
 - This symptom can cause social stigma – For instance a friend in high school had this symptom -- students and teachers were confused at first
- After a seizure they may feel weak, tired or confused
- The reason they have so many seizures is because the electrical signals in their brain temporally miscommunicate

Epilepsy Treatment

- Can be managed with medication, diet, and/ or surgery
 - Anti – epileptic drugs can treat 7 out of 10 people
 - Nerve stimulations devices are also being used
 - Low carbohydrate diet can be successful in some people
 - Surgery can be a option to reduce seizures

Summary

- Epilepsy is a disease that can cause uncontrollable seizures (fierce shaking or prolonged non-movement) that can result in broken bones and strokes.
- It can have some social stigma if bystanders are not aware and educated about the symptoms.
- However, the disease can be controlled by medication or other means.