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Managing Your Care: Information Evening, Wednesday 10th September 2014

Brainwaves NI in partnership with NICaN Brain & CNS Group



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Living with
Epilepsy

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Epilepsy

- Epilepsy is the **most common** serious neurological condition
- It is a tendency to have **recurrent** seizures
- Affects 1- 103 of the population
- 40 different types of seizures
- Affects **all** areas of a person's life
- **No** test will deny or confirm the diagnosis
- Social as well as medical diagnosis
- 5% of the population will have one seizure during their life

Epilepsy

- Epilepsy is specific to the individual
- It is still a very misunderstood and misinterpreted condition
- Once a diagnosis is made :-
 - The person carries that with them for the rest of their life
 - Find it difficult to come to terms because:-
 - Seizures are so unpredictable
 - No control of what is happening for that period of time during the seizure

Seizure types in patients with a brain tumour

- Partial Seizures
 - Simple Partial - focal motor/sensory
 - Complex Partial
 - Secondary generalised

How it is diagnosed?

- Clinical
- Eye witness account
- Investigations
 - ?EEG

Treatments(1)

- Medication
- Surgery – if tumour has changed
- Other - complementary

Treatments (2)

- Medications
 - Any AED can be used
 - Common ones :-
 - Keppra
 - Phenytoin
 - Tegretol
 - Taken on a regular basis
 - Dose specific to the person
 - May require more than one drug

Precipitating factors of poor seizure control

- Missed medication
- *Growth of tumour*
- Stress
- Tiredness
- Alcohol

Most people do **not have any identifiable trigger**

First aid (1)

■ Simple Partial Seizure

- **NO** loss of consciousness
- Wait for it to pass
- Record time and length of attack
- Reassure patient

■ Complex Partial Seizure

- Loss of consciousness
- Wait for it to pass
- Record time and length of seizure
- Reassurance
Avoid injury

First Aid(2)

Tonic Clonic seizure

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <u>Things to do:-</u>■ Keep calm■ Cushion Head■ Remove from danger■ Place in recovery position as soon as possible■ Record length of seizure■ Reassure patient afterwards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <u>Things NOT to be done:-</u>■ Do NOT put anything in the mouth■ Do not move unless in danger■ Do not restrict movements■ Do not leave until fully recovered |
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How may epilepsy affect lifestyle?

- Can affect all areas of the patients life
 - Safety
 - Driving
 - Socially
 - Employment

Role of the Specialist Nurse

- “Just being there”
- Easily accessed
- Advice and information
- Support
- Liaises between the patient , GP and Consultant

Contact numbers

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