



Individualized Education Plan & 504 Plan Epilepsy Considerations

Cause of seizures: In up to 70% of cases, the cause of epilepsy is unknown. Possible causes include head injury, stroke, neurological infection, genetics, brain tumor, defects in brain development, or brain damage from prenatal or perinatal causes.

Location origin of seizures: Seizures often originate in the frontal lobe, temporal lobe, parietal lobe, occipital lobe, or hippocampus. Possible impacts include memory, problem solving, learning/academics, speech/word retrieval, and mood/behavior. How the seizure is displayed varies by where in the brain the seizure originates.

Anti-Epilepsy Medication Side Effects: Side effects vary greatly in each individual. Possible side effects include cognitive/memory issues, fatigue, weight gain/loss, hyperactivity, slowed movements, personality changes, mood changes/depression, blurred vision, dizziness, lightheadedness, slowed thinking, coordination issues, and unsteady walking.

Nocturnal Seizures: Seizures that take place during the night, during sleep, can have physical and emotional impact on the student the following day. Sleep interruptions can lead to missed important sleep cycles, difficulty functioning during the day, or increase in seizures during the day.

Spectrum of epilepsy and seizures: Some seizures are well controlled by medication. When seizures are refractory to treatment, epilepsy can lead to many difficulties due to frequent seizures. Where someone is at in the spectrum can change over time and have varying effects.

Triggers: Possible triggers include missed or late dose of medication, lack of sleep/fatigue, stress/anxiety, poor diet/ missed meals, overheating/dehydration, loud or startling noises, photosensitivity, hormonal changes, and medication interactions.

Post ictal period/recovery: After a seizure, there is a gradual return to full awareness which can take as long as an hour. During this time, the child may be extremely tired, speech and memory may be slow to return, and they may report having a headache.

Seizure Implant Devices Side Effects:

VNS – Vagus Nerve Stimulation: hoarse voice, sensation in neck/throat, or mild cough.

RNS – Responsive Neuro-Stimulation: No Significant side effects

DBS – Deep Brain Stimulation: headache, mood changes, tingling in the face or limbs, tightening of muscles, speech or vision changes, loss of balance, and memory issues.

Information Retrieved From: epilepsy.com