

Reproductive Issues for Males

Can I still have children if I have epilepsy?

- Most men with epilepsy can have children.
- However, people with epilepsy seem to have fewer children. This may be due to:
 - Social factors: How they have learned to interact with others, how they view themselves, and pressure from others to not have children may lead people with epilepsy to being less likely to marry and have children.
 - Sexual and physical factors: Epilepsy and seizure medicines may cause changes in hormone levels. Hormone changes may affect interest in sex and the ability to have children.
 - Some men with epilepsy have low testosterone. Some seizure medicines can lower testosterone levels. Low testosterone can lead to less interest in sex.
 - Valproic acid can affect sperm and how male sex organs develop.
 - Some seizure medicines do not change male hormones.
- The risk for less interest in sex and problems having children is highest for men who:
 - Have epilepsy that began before 10 years of age.
 - Have focal epilepsy (specifically temporal lobe epilepsy).
 - Have family members with epilepsy.

What are the chances that my child will have epilepsy?

- Some types of epilepsy run in families. Epilepsy can also skip a generation.
- There is a higher risk of having a child with epilepsy if:
 - One or both parents have epilepsy (the risk is higher if the mother has epilepsy).
 - One or both parents have generalized epilepsy.
 - Parents' seizures started early in life.



Reproductive Issues for Males (continued)

What safety precautions should I follow while caring for a baby?

- Dress, change, feed, and play with the baby on the floor instead of a high surface like a changing table.
- Limit time carrying the baby around the house, especially up and down stairs.
- If you often fall to one side during your seizures, hold the baby on the other side so you do not fall on the baby.
- Do not bathe the baby in a tub when you are alone.
- Do not carry hot drinks or heavy items around the baby.

