

Epilepsy: Common Myths & Misperceptions

Epilepsy is NOT always a lifelong problem. Antiepileptic drugs successfully prevent seizures in the majority of people who take them regularly and as prescribed.

- People with this disease are NOT "epileptics", they are "people with epilepsy."
- People with epilepsy are usually not cognitively challenged. The majority of people with epilepsy have normal intelligence. Some forms of epilepsy associated with brain injury may, however, cause neurologic challenges.
- Epilepsy is not a mental illness. Unfortunately behaviors seen around a seizure may be confused with a person who is mentally ill.



1 – Epilepsy Foundation Web site, <http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/about/treatment/medications/>

2 – Illustrations developed by Ortho-McNeil Neurologics®, Division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.