

Neuroscience:

The nervous system has two distinct parts: the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) and the peripheral nervous system (the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord).

Normally, nerves transmit impulses electrically in one direction—from the impulse-sending axon of one nerve cell to the impulse-receiving dendrites of the next nerve cell. At contact points between nerve cells (synapses), the axon secretes tiny amounts of chemical messengers (neurotransmitters). Neurotransmitters trigger the receptors on the next nerve cell's dendrites to produce a new electrical current. Different types of nerves use different neurotransmitters to convey impulses across the synapses.

Epilepsy:

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by unprovoked, recurring seizures that disrupt the nervous system and can cause mental and physical dysfunction.

Epilepsy is a wide spectrum of problems. What all types of epilepsy share are recurrent, unprovoked seizures caused by an uncontrolled electrical discharge from nerve cells in the cerebral cortex. This part of the brain controls higher mental functions, general movement, and the functions of the internal organs in the abdominal cavity, perception, and behavioral reactions.

Types

Tonic-Clonic (Grand Mal) Seizures: The first stage of a grand mal seizure is called the tonic phase, in which the muscles suddenly contract, causing the patient to fall and lie stiffly for about 10 - 30 seconds. Spasms occur for about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Then the seizure enters the second phase, called the clonic phase. The muscles begin to alternate between relaxation and rigidity. The seizure usually lasts a total of 2 - 3 minutes, after which the patient remains unconscious for a while and then awakens to confusion and extreme fatigue.

Absence (Petit Mal) Seizures: Absence or petit mal seizures are brief losses of consciousness that occur for 3 - 30 seconds. Physical movement and loss of attention may stop for only a moment. Such seizures may pass unnoticed by others. A person may experience attacks as often as 50 - 100 times a day. About 25% of patients with petit mal develop grand mal seizures.

Causes	Symptoms	Diagnosis	Treatment
Mostly idiopathic, that is cause is unknown in almost 80% cases.	Seizures (See Types for description of the seizure)	EEG	Treatment should be done with an anti epileptic drug
		MRI Scan	
		CT Scan	
		Others such as PET and SPECT	

DISCLAIMER:

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Depression:

Depression is referred to as a mood disorder.

Causes	Symptoms	Diagnosis	Treatment	
Hereditary (Runs in the family)	Suicidal thoughts	Psychiatrists usually perform a screening test which consist of questions on the basis of which depression is diagnosed	Counselling	
	Excessive sleep or insomnia			
	Depressed mood		Antidepressants as follows:	
	Inability to concentrate			
Neurotransmitter imbalance	Feeling of guilt or worthlessness		Psychiatrists usually perform a screening test which consist of questions on the basis of which depression is diagnosed	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)
	Significant increase or decrease in appetite or weight			
	Tiredness			Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) MAO Inhibitors Tri – Cyclic Antidepressants
	Loss of pleasure most of the time			

Parkinson Disease:

Parkinson's disease is a slowly progressive degenerative disorder of the central nervous system. It is characterized by tremor when muscles are at rest (resting tremor), increased muscle tone (rigidity), slowness of voluntary movements, and difficulty maintaining balance (postural instability).

It commonly begins between the ages of 50 and 79. Rarely, Parkinson's disease occurs in children or adolescents.

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Causes	Symptoms	Diagnosis	Treatment
Degeneration in the part of the brain that helps coordinate movements.	Tremors when muscles are relaxed	On the basis of symptoms	Changes in lifestyle
	Muscles become stiff		Drugs such as:
	Movements become slow		Levodopa
	Uncoordinated movements		Carbidopa
	Balance is easily lost		Anticholinergics MAO Inhibitors

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