

# Understanding a Severe Type of Epilepsy: Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS)

## What is epilepsy?

**EPILEPSY** is a medical condition in which a person has had two or more unprovoked seizures.<sup>1</sup>

There are many types of epilepsy, each with different causes and symptoms.

**LGS: A rare disorder**

LGS makes up

1%

to

2%

of all epilepsies, although figures of 3% to as high as 10.7% have been reported<sup>2</sup>

## LGS characteristics:<sup>4,5</sup>

- Multiple types of seizures
- Slow development — delays in mental and/or physical motor skills
- An abnormal EEG or brain wave pattern



LGS typically occurs between

2

to

8

years of age<sup>3</sup>

The cause is unknown in over

30%

of children<sup>3</sup>

Known causes include:

- Genetic disorders<sup>2</sup>
- Brain injury or infections<sup>2</sup>

1 out of

5

children have a prior history of infantile spasms<sup>4</sup>

**LGS can be challenging to diagnose**

LGS varies from person to person<sup>6</sup> and each journey is different.

# A unique journey from child to adulthood

80%

of children diagnosed with LGS will continue having seizures into their adult years<sup>2</sup>

- ➔ No two people with LGS share exactly the same characteristics
- ➔ The types of seizures may change<sup>3</sup>
- ➔ Behaviors may change<sup>3</sup>
- ➔ Emotional and physical needs change<sup>3</sup>
- ➔ Families and caregivers may find strength and support from each other

Kelly, mother of young daughter, Isabela

“To me, it’s important to connect with others, especially other parents who have kids with LGS, so that I can have someone understand me, so that I can have someone know what I go through every day.”

Elizabeth, mother of young daughter, Spencer

“For once [at the LGS Conference], our kid was like everyone else’s. Those kids not confined to wheelchairs shared Spencer’s slow, funny gait. And, like Spencer, those kids who could walk sat in their strollers by the end of the day, when walking had become just too much.”

Jane, mother of adult daughter, Micaela

“We decided to take control of the chaos, and that was an attitude change. We continue to talk with our doctor, and it’s really helped us along the way. It has put us in a much better place.”

Jennifer, mother pre-teen son, Theo

“I went to an LGS conference, and I saw all of these people who were probably experiencing many of the things we had experienced here as a family. I felt like I’d found my family.”

## Hope for the future

There are more resources available for people with LGS than ever before. For additional information on LGS:



[facebook.com/LGSTogether](https://facebook.com/LGSTogether)  
[LGSFoundation.org](http://LGSFoundation.org)

[LGSTogether.com](http://LGSTogether.com)  
[Epilepsy.com](http://Epilepsy.com)



Your Partner in Epilepsy™

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