

## Frontal Lobe Epilepsy

### What is frontal lobe epilepsy?

In general, the seizures begin suddenly, are brief, and end suddenly with very little confusion or tiredness after the seizure. In some people frontal lobe seizures occur only in sleep.

Frontal lobe epilepsies are characterised by simple partial, complex partial, secondary generalised seizures or combinations of these.

People with frontal lobe epilepsy report feelings of fear, dread, and terror as well as feelings of euphoria and excitement.

Somatosensory sensations are also frequently present. These include feelings of oppression, shivering, and a sensation of body heat.

Autonomic symptoms such as palpitations, choking, pallor, flushing, salivation and migraine like sensations are also common.

Bizarre behaviour and complex motor activities can sometimes be observed. These include using obscenities, jumping or pedalling movements, agitation of the upper limbs as if struggling, or rubbing the genitals.

People with frontal lobe seizures may have problems with independent work, particularly tasks which follow a sequence, where one answer is a base to the next step. The frontal lobe is related to personality, memory, anxiety, alertness and awareness.

### How common is it?

Frontal lobe epilepsy is a common cause of partial seizures. However it is less common than temporal lobe epilepsy.

### Epilepsy and frontal lobe seizures

Seizures can be simple or complex partial, with or without secondary generalisation.

Complex partial seizures that begin in the frontal lobe are briefer, more abrupt in onset and termination and occur with greater frequency than complex partial seizures that begin in the temporal lobes.

Frontal lobe seizures are frequent, it is not uncommon to have up to 50 per day.

Vocalisations or speech arrest can occur.

Secondary generalisation is more frequent in frontal lobe seizures than in temporal lobe.

The partial seizures are very brief and there is rapid generalisation to tonic clonic seizures.

Simple partial seizures that originate in the frontal lobe are often non-specific and vague such as dizziness or weird sensation in the head.

The seizures often occur in clusters. The head and eyes may deviate to one side at the onset of the seizure.

Atonic seizures, may occur when there is a rapid spread of discharge from one hemisphere to the other.

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