Healthcare Lingo

**Antiepileptic drugs (AEDs)**
Medicines to treat seizures. Also called antiepileptic medications, anticonvulsants, antiseizure drugs.\(^1\)

**Aura**
A warning that you have before a seizure, or an actual seizure. An aura might be a change in a sensation, such as your sense of smell, taste, or sight. Or it could be a physical change, such as feeling lightheaded or dizzy.\(^2\)\(^4\)

**Ketogenic diet**
A special high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet that may be prescribed by your doctor in addition to medications to help control seizures.\(^5\)

**Lifestyle factors**
These are things like getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, and decreasing stress that might help you manage your epilepsy.\(^6\)

**Neuron**
A nerve cell. Nerve cells communicate with each other in the brain and can send messages to other parts of the body.\(^7\)

**Neurologic**
Relating to neurons (nerve cells).\(^7\)

**Quality of life**
Your sense of well-being. Your sense of well-being comes from how satisfied you are with your roles, activities, goals, and opportunities in life.\(^8\)

**Seizure frequency**
How often you have seizures.

**Seizure triggers**
Factors that might cause your seizures, such as stress or lack of sleep.\(^8\)

**Self-management**
Taking responsibility for your own behavior and well-being, and managing your own day-to-day health.\(^9\)

**Status epilepticus**
A prolonged, severe seizure that can cause brain injury. Any seizure that causes muscle contractions and lasts more than 5 minutes can be a medical emergency, and someone should call 911.\(^10\)

**SUDEP**
Sudden unexpected death related to epilepsy. It is not caused by drowning or another type of accident that could lead to death while having a seizure. SUDEP can happen with or without a seizure.\(^11\)
References


