



Ayer Neuroscience Institute

What you need to know about Refractory Epilepsy

What is it?

By definition, “refractory” means resistant to process. Medication Refractory Epilepsy is when seizures keep happening after you have tried two or more medicines.

Is it bad?

It can be. In addition to any problems you might have from continued seizures, Medication Refractory Epilepsy gives you a higher risk of:

- Medication side effects
- Loss of independence and ability to drive
- Memory and thinking problems
- Depression and anxiety
- Trouble at work or school

Who has it?

About one third of people with epilepsy will have medication refractory seizures. We don’t understand why medication doesn’t stop the seizures in these, but we do know there are other treatments you can try.



What should I do?

Medication Refractory Epilepsy is best managed by specialists who have the advanced equipment needed to make a specific diagnosis and identify the best treatment options for you. This team can also help you manage other problems that can come along with epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Center at the Hartford HealthCare Ayer Neuroscience Institute has such a team, with many staff specifically trained in caring for people with epilepsy and seizures. Our team includes:

- Neurologists
- Neurologist extenders
- Neurosurgeons
- Nurses
- Neuropsychologists
- Radiologists
- Social workers

How can I get an appointment?

To be seen at the Ayer Epilepsy Center, your neurologist or primary care provider must send a referral to our clinic in one of the following ways:

- If you work within Hartford HealthCare, use the Ambulatory Referral to Neurology-Epilepsy
- From outside Hartford HealthCare, fax a referral to 860.545.5003

If you have any questions, call us at 860.972.3621.

When it's time to come to see us, we are located at:

Hartford Hospital
85 Seymour St.
Hartford, CT 06102