



Healthcare Lingo

Antiepileptic drugs (AEDs)

Medicines to treat seizures. Also called antiepileptic medications, anticonvulsants, and antiseizure drugs.¹

Lifestyle factors

These are things like getting enough sleep, exercising regularly, and decreasing stress that might help you manage your epilepsy.²

Medication adherence

Taking your AEDs regularly.3

Medication compliance

Following your doctor's instructions for taking your AEDs.3

Neuron

A nerve cell. Nerve cells communicate with each other in the brain and can send messages to other parts of the body.⁴

Quality of life

General well-being, your ability to enjoy normal life activities.⁵

Seizure frequency

How often you have seizures.

Seizure tracker

A record of each time you have a seizure. You can record other information about each seizure, too, such as how long the seizure lasted and how you felt before the seizure.⁶ A seizure tracker could be a paper document, an online seizure tracker, or an app you use on your phone.⁷

Seizure triggers

Factors that might cause your seizures, such as stress or lack of sleep.5

Side effects

Side effects are feelings you might have from the AEDs you take. Not everyone has side effects from AEDs, but some people might have them.⁸





References

1. Perucca E, Tomson T. The pharmacological treatment of epilepsy in adults. Lancet Neurol. 2011;10(5):446–456. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Living Well With Epilepsy. http://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/pdfs/epilepsy-brochure-508.pdf. 3. Epilepsy Foundation. Medication Adherence. <a href="http://www.epilepsy.com/get-help/managing-your-epilepsy/managi triggers/medication-adherence Published November 2013. November 2013. 4. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The Epilepsies and Seizures: Hope Through Research. 2016.

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/epilepsy/detail_epilepsy.htm. Published February 1, 2016.

5. England MJ, Liverman CT, Schultz AM, Strawbridge LM, eds. *Epilepsy Across the Spectrum. Promoting Health and* Understanding, Washington, DC: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. The National Academies Press; 2012. 6. Epilepsy Foundation. If First Medicine Doesn't Work. http://www.epilepsy.com/learn/treating-seizures-and-epilepsy/treatment-101-basics/if-first-medicine-doesnt-work. October 2016. 7. Epilepsy Foundation. Using Seizure Diaries.

http://www.epilepsy.com/get-help/managing-your-epilepsy/tracking-my-seizures/using-seizure-diaries. Published August 2013.

8. Epilepsy Foundation. Side Effects. http://www.epilepsy.com/get-help/managing-your-epilepsy/tracking-my-seizures/using-seizure-diaries. Published August 2013. medicines/side-effects. March 2014.