

New Therapies Cut Seizures in People with Drug-Resistant Epilepsy

A full-service epilepsy center can tailor the right treatment to each patient

UCLA Health

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	THERAPIES FOR EPILEPSY HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT DECADES, BUT QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MANY PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY HAS NOT. HOW ONE CENTER IS WORKING TO GIVE PATIENTS THE PERSONALIZED CARE THEY NEED, NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS.
ANCHOR LEAD	3.4 MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH EPILEPSY ¹ , YET AN ESTIMATED 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF PATIENTS STILL SUFFER DEBILITATING SEIZURES THAT DON'T RESPOND TO MEDICATION ² . FOR MANY, IT'S AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF TRYING MEDICATION AFTER MEDICATION WITHOUT RELIEF, OR BELIEVING THAT BRAIN SURGERY IS THEIR ONLY OPTION. BUT ONE CENTER WANTS PATIENTS TO KNOW THAT A WIDE ARRAY OF NEW THERAPIES EXIST TO HELP PEOPLE WITH SEIZURE DISORDERS - IF ONLY THEY KNEW WHERE TO GO. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS MORE.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: UCLA Health :00 - :03 Shots of Sharon walking mountain bikes with her husband CG: Sharon Shafer Has epilepsy Shots of Sharon meeting with Dr. Eliashiv Graphic I: -1 million Americans suffer from uncontrolled epileptic seizures Shots of Sharon in follow-up	(Nats - Sound) :02 IT TOOK SHARON SHAFER TWENTY YEARS TO ADMIT THE THREE WORDS SHE NEVER WANTED TO SAY. :05 "I am sick." :01 SHARON HAS EPILEPSY, AND LIKE AN ESTIMATED THIRTY TO FORTY PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH THE DISORDER, HER SEIZURES WEREN'T CONTROLLED BY MEDICATION. MORE THAN ONE MILLION AMERICANS SUFFER FROM UNCONTROLLED EPILEPTIC SEIZURES. THEY'VE TRIED MULTIPLE MEDICATIONS, THEY'RE NOT A CANDIDATE FOR SURGERY OR THEY DON'T WANT TO UNDERGO AN INVASIVE PROCEDURE.

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<p>appointment</p> <p>CG: Dawn Eliashiv, MD Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center</p> <p>Dr. Eliashiv showing Sharon the RNS device</p> <p>Shots of live brain waves on tablet</p> <p>Sharon and Dr. Eliashiv talking about fine tuning the device</p> <p>Sharon Shafer (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Fried going into OR</p> <p>Shot of Dr. Fried reviewing scans in OR</p> <p>Shots of Sharon getting on bike</p> <p>CG: Itzhak Fried, MD Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center</p> <p>Shots of Sharon mountain biking with her husband (PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>FOR THESE PATIENTS, EXPERTS AT U-C-L-A HEALTH WANT THEM TO KNOW THIS: A FULL-SERVICE EPILEPSY CENTER CAN HELP. :21</p> <p><i>"Surgery's not the only option. There are many other options. But what we try to do is really personalize." :07</i></p> <p>DOCTOR DAWN ELIASHIV (ELLE-ee-uh-SHEEVE) HAS SEEN SUCCESS WITH RESPONSIVE NEUROSTIMULATION THERAPY - A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN WHICH A TINY DEVICE IS IMPLANTED IN THE SKULL.</p> <p>WHEN ABNORMAL BRAIN ACTIVITY IS DETECTED, THE DEVICE SENDS AN ELECTRICAL PULSE, STOPPING THE SEIZURE IN ITS TRACKS.</p> <p>THE FIRST 'SMART' THERAPY FOR EPILEPSY, THE DEVICE CAN BE FINE-TUNED, GROWING MORE EFFECTIVE OVER TIME. :21</p> <p>(Nats - 13:06:50 "So let's increase that to two." :02)</p> <p>UCLA PATIENTS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE RESPONSIVE NEUROSTIMULATION SEE, ON AVERAGE, A SEVENTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN SEIZURE ACTIVITY. :06</p> <p><i>"I feel more 'with it.' I feel like I can communicate better. I feel that I'm doing a better job in the workplace." :10</i></p> <p>THE DEVICE IS ONLY ONE OF MANY TREATMENTS AVAILABLE. WHETHER THE BEST OPTION IS SURGERY, MEDICATION OR NERVE STIMULATION, THERE ARE EMERGING THERAPIES TO HELP THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM SEIZURE DISORDERS. :10</p> <p><i>"It's important to understand that epilepsy's not really a singular disease. It's a wide spectrum of faulty networks, and it would be individualized to the particular network of the particular patient that is causing this devastating disease." :16</i></p> <p>AT UCLA HEALTH, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/> <p>FULL-SERVICE EPILEPSY CENTERS LIKE U-C-L-A CAN ALSO PROVIDE OTHER NON-INVASIVE TREATMENTS SUCH AS EXPERIMENTAL DRUG TRIALS OR IDENTIFYING PATIENTS WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM A KETOGENIC OR MODIFIED ATKINS DIET.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p>	<p>An estimated 30 to 40 percent of people with epilepsy have seizures that don't respond to medication. @UCLAHealth wants patients to know there are other options - and a full-service epilepsy center can help. http://bit.ly/2nFabfC</p>
<p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>An estimated 30 to 40 percent of the 3.4 million Americans living with epilepsy suffer seizures that don't respond to medication. Many believe that drastic brain surgery is their only option, but experts at UCLA Health want patients to know that full-service epilepsy centers offer a variety of personalized therapies. http://bit.ly/2nFabfC</p>

EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Dawn Eliashiv, MD Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center</p>	<p>Eliashiv talks about the prevalence of epilepsy: <i>"The chance of somebody experiencing a seizure by the time they're 80 is about 10%. And actually, just to give you a number how prevalent it is, it's actually like lung cancer in men, and breast cancer in women. So it's a very common condition."</i></p>
<p>CG: Itzhak Fried, MD (EAT-zach, FREE-d) Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center</p>	<p>Eliashiv talks about the goal of a full-service epilepsy center: <i>"There's a lot of talk now about personalized medicine. So what we are trying to do is actually to find what is the best treatment for each individual patient."</i></p> <p>Fried talks about patients living with epilepsy: <i>"It's an enormous compromise on the quality of life. It comes all of a sudden with no warning, so you cannot do the normal things which we do, such as driving. Even cooking can be dangerous."</i></p>
<p>CG: Sharon Shafer Has epilepsy</p>	<p>Sharon talks about her responsive neurostimulation results: <i>"What we are seeing is a progress where many of the seizures that I would've gone totally out of control unconscious, I now retain consciousness."</i></p> <p>Sharon says she was in denial about her epilepsy: <i>"There was this concept of denial. 'It'll just go away.' And then it was, 'Well, if I just find the right drug, I'll grow out of it. It'll all be okay.'"</i></p>

References

<p>¹What is Epilepsy? Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy. 2018. Online: https://www.cureepilepsy.org/about-epilepsy/what-is-epilepsy.</p> <p>²1 in 26. Epilepsy Foundation 2018. Online: https://www.epilepsy.com/make-difference/public-awareness/1-26.</p>
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³*Why are so few Patients with Pharmacoresistant Epilepsy Being Referred to Full-Service Centers?* **Neurology Reviews. August 24, 2016, 27-28.** Online:
<https://www.mdedge.com/neurologyreviews/epilepsyresourcecenter/article/110922/epilepsy-seizures/why-are-so-few-patients/page/0/1>

⁴*What can we do for people with drug-resistant epilepsy? The 2016 Wartenberg Lecture.* **Neurology. December 6, 2016. 2483-2489.** Online:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27920283>

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