Understanding Epilepsy

What is Epilepsy?
Epilepsy is the tendency to have recurrent seizures. It is the same thing as a seizure disorder. A single seizure does not constitute epilepsy.

300,000 (or 1 in 100) people in Canada, are affected by Epilepsy.

TREATING EPILEPSY

- Antiseizure drugs (AEDs) are the main treatment for epilepsy. AEDs help control seizure activity.
- When medication fails to control seizures, epilepsy surgery may be beneficial.

HOW LONG DO SEIZURES LAST?

1 minute is a long time when someone you love is having a seizure.

Canadian parliament officially recognized the day in 2013.

WHAT DO CANADIANS KNOW ABOUT EPILEPSY? AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

While 50% of Canadians commonly associate the colour purple with fruits and vegetables, a mere 3% drew a parallel of the colour purple to epilepsy.

Aside from fruits and vegetables, the most common associations were royalty (41%), the gemstone amethyst (34%) and the Purple Heart (29%).

Not all Canadians understand the basics of epilepsy seizures - only 56% knew that seizures last only a minute.

Only 41% knew that there are multiple types of seizures.

Some good news - more than two-thirds of Canadians knew that epilepsy is a neurological disease and that some patients might experience advanced warnings.

FACT

MYTH

Epilepsy is rare and there aren’t many people who have it.

There are more than twice as many people with epilepsy in Canada as the number of people with cerebral palsy (55,000), muscular dystrophy (28,000), multiple sclerosis (39,000), and cystic fibrosis (3,400) combined. Epilepsy can occur as a single condition, or may accompany other conditions affecting the brain, such as cerebral palsy, mental impairment, autism, Alzheimer’s, and traumatic brain injury.

With today’s medication, epilepsy is largely a solved problem.

Epilepsy is a chronic medical problem that for many people can be successfully treated. Unfortunately, treatment doesn’t work for everyone and there’s a critical need for more research.

Epilepsy is not contagious

Epilepsy affects each person living with the disorder differently.

Another term for epilepsy is a seizure disorder.

When a person has two or more seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy.

Some of the most exceptionally creative and talented people in history have had epilepsy, including:

- St. Paul
- Alexander the Great
- Julius Caesar
- Dante
- Joan of Arc
- Isaac Newton
- Molière
- Napoleon
- Bonaparte
- Handel
- Beethoven
- Flaubert
- Pagnini
- Tennyson
- Byron
- Charles Dickens
- Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Vincent Van Gogh
- Lewis Carroll
- Alfred Nobel
- Agatha Christie
- Richard Burton.

For more information, visit www.epilepsymatters.com

REFERENCES


Some long term effects of epilepsy are:

- Disability
- Seizures

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED?

150 million people worldwide

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