

**Epilepsy is one of the most often misdiagnosed, mistreated or unrecognized conditions affecting seniors.**

In people aged 60 and older, **brief gaps in conversation, periods of confusion, blank stares** or being unresponsive are often chalked up to benign "senior moments." However, these **may actually be signs of epilepsy**, which is now more prevalent among older Americans than any other age group.

# Seizures and Aging™

**A Free Educational Program on Epilepsy in Seniors**

**INTENDED FOR:** staff and/or senior-aged program participants

**IDEAL For:**

Senior Centers

Nursing Homes

Assisted Living Facilities

Retirement Communities

Day Programs

Home Health Care

This *SENIORS EPILEPSY-EDUCATION PROGRAM* includes:

- ▣ What is a seizure and the relation to epilepsy
- ▣ Seizure Recognition and First Aid, including how to recognize the subtle signs of seizures
- ▣ Emergency Care
- ▣ Causes of Seizures in the elderly
- ▣ Treatment Issues for the elderly
- ▣ Health & Safety Concerns for seniors with seizures

WE CAN  
CUSTOMIZE  
THE PROGRAM  
TO FIT YOUR  
NEEDS.



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*



- **Care and treatment can make seizures manageable in the later years** ▪

## Is that “Senior Moment” a Seizure?



Becoming confused, forgetful or dizzy is common among older adults, sometimes called "a senior moment". **But these symptoms may not be just a sign of age. They could also be a sign of something much more serious and treatable.**

"Every bone in my body felt like it was totally arthritic," says George C., who has epilepsy. "I thought I was just getting klutzy. I was falling, and I was having blackouts."

George thought his troubles were just a part of growing older and so did those closest to him. His sister, Toni M., says "He had a stare about him."

And his best friend John V. adds, "All of the sudden, he just kind of leaned over, and a cigarette dropped out of his hand."

**It wasn't old age. It was epilepsy.**

**Easily mistaken for symptoms of aging, seizures often go untreated; such attacks, however, could signal a serious illness.**

When George is having a seizure, there are no jerky movements that most of us associate with epilepsy. George moves his mouth a little, but for the most part, he just zones out.

**Signs of senior epilepsy can be repeated episodes of losing consciousness, dizziness and language or behavioral changes. Older people have more staring spells or even pass out when having a seizure.**

Epilepsy affects about 300,000 seniors. **The longer you let it drag on, the more damage it can do to the brain.**

Treatments include medication and surgery. George had the part of his brain removed that was causing the problem. Now, he feels 100 percent better.

"I can say for sure I have not had a seizure since the surgery." And his family and friends have the man they knew back. His sister Toni agrees, "It's in his eyes. That look is gone."

**It's not unusual for a senior to have a cause for seizures other than epilepsy. Meningitis or encephalitis leads to higher risk of seizures later in life...**



**epilepsy** RESOURCE CONNECTION

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