Options exist for when epilepsy medicines don't control seizures

Posted by Dr. David M Ficker/Cincinnati Epilepsy Center December 31, 2008 00:00AM

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Question: I have tried several different medications for my epilepsy, but my seizures are not controlled. What other treatment options are there?

Answer: Unfortunately for some people with epilepsy, currently available medications are unable to completely control seizures. In fact, for about 1 in 3 with epilepsy, seizures remain uncontrolled. This is called "medication resistant" or "refractory" epilepsy.

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I am an Epileptic who asked the same questions in this article many years ago. I was offered the same options, as well as several types of exploratory surgery. I'm glad I refused, because after I stopped my meds from my Neurologist (Lamictal/Zonegran) MY SEIZURES STOPPED! I have also taken many other meds such as dilantin, depakote, zonisamide, tegratol, phenobarbital... and many OTHERS. AFTER STOPPING MY MEDS, I WENT FROM 25-30 EPISODES PER MONTH— TO 5 OR LESS PER MONTH. AFTER STARTING MEDS AGAIN 6 MONTHS LATER (UNDER THE ADVICE OF MY PHYSICIAN), THE SEIZURES RETURNED. So, now I only use MEDICAL MARIJUANA to relieve my seizures. IN THE TIME I HAVE USED IT (3months), MY EPISODES WENT FROM LESS THAN 5... TO NONEXISTENT! I say let me smoke marijuana... I will no longer take the poison that CAUSED my seizures. After 12 years of a MISERABLE EXISTENCE on Dr prescribed pills, I will MAKE SURE people in my position KNOW their options... not JUST 'Dr options'. TELL THE TRUTH, Marijuana IS a viable option.