

## Diagnostic Tips

TOOLS FOR DIAGNOSIS		
<b>INTERVIEW</b>	<p><b>Information about Seizure(s)</b></p> <p>The doctor will ask for a complete description of what happened.</p>	<p>Questions that may be asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What circumstances surrounded the seizure?</li> <li>• What seemed to bring on the seizure?</li> <li>• What happened before the seizure?</li> <li>• How did your child feel before, during, and after the seizure?</li> <li>• Description of seizure behavior?</li> <li>• What happened after the seizure?</li> <li>• Where was the child when the seizure occurred?</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Medical History</b></p>	<p>You may be asked about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family history of seizures</li> <li>• medical conditions or medications</li> <li>• general medical history of your child</li> </ul>
<b>PHYSICAL EXAM</b>	<p>An examination of muscle strength, reflexes, eyesight, hearing and ability to detect various sensations, are tested to better understand the cause of the seizures.</p>	
<b>NEUROLOGICAL EXAM ( TESTS )</b>	<p><b>EEG (electroencephalogram)</b></p>	<p>An EEG measures the electrical impulses in the brain. During an EEG, electrodes (small metal disks) are attached to specific locations on the head and monitored. Abnormal electrical spikes indicate seizure activity.</p>
	<p><b>CT or CAT Scan (computerized axial tomography)</b></p>	<p>A CT scan is an x-ray of the brain that creates three-dimensional images of the brain and shows possible abnormalities.</p>
	<p><b>MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)</b></p>	<p>An MRI is another imaging method using magnets instead of X-rays. MRI tests provide detailed images of the brain. CT or MRI scans may be used to search for any growths, scars, or other physical conditions in the brain that may be causing the seizures.</p>
	<p><b>Blood Tests</b></p>	<p>Tests to measure white blood cell count, blood sugar, sodium, calcium and electrolyte levels, and liver and kidney function. Blood tests also help rule out other illnesses.</p>
	<p><b>Other Tests</b></p>	<p>Other tests may be ordered as needed.</p>

Chart appears from WebMD, Diagnosing Epilepsy, <http://www.webmd.com/epilepsy/guide/diagnosing-epilepsy> ( August 29, 2007 ).