

How you feel

Having epilepsy is more than just having seizures. It can affect every part and every aspect of your life: physical, mental, and emotional.

While you might recover from the impact of seizures, you might not feel OK with your epilepsy, or how it feels to live with it. You might want to know where you can get more support.

There's no right or wrong way to feel about epilepsy. How you feel about it might change from month to month, or from moment to moment. It may depend on how often you have seizures and how they affect you. It might also depend on how those around you feel about your epilepsy, and what emotional support you get.

Talking about it

You may feel as though no one understands what epilepsy is like or how it feels to have it. You might want to talk about it, or you might want to shut down and not even think about it any more.

If your epilepsy is getting you down, talking to someone might help you. It doesn't really matter who you decide to talk to, as long as you feel you can trust them and you think they are good at listening. Your university may have a counsellor you can talk to about how you are feeling.

Sex and relationships

Many young people worry about sex and relationships, whether they have epilepsy or not. Getting close to someone else can be great, but it may also leave you feeling vulnerable. If you have epilepsy, you might also be thinking about when to tell your partner and how it will affect your relationship, if at all.

You might be worried about having a seizure during sex. While this is possible, it is probably no more likely than having a seizure at any other time.

Epilepsy Society

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Planning contraception and safe sex is important to protect you and your partner against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

For girls and young women with epilepsy, there are particular issues around contraception that can affect both seizures and the effectiveness of contraception, as some methods of contraception affect, and are affected by, anti-seizure medication (ASM).

Visit epilepsysociety.org.uk/relationships-and-sex and epilepsysociety.org.uk/contraception-and-epilepsy

Get in touch with other people

It can be really helpful to talk to other people who have epilepsy and to share experiences with them. This can help you feel that there are other people 'out there' who understand what you are going through. Here are some places you can get in touch with others:

Other young people share their experiences on the YouthHealthTalk website.

Visit healthtalk.org/epilepsy-in-young-people

- Call our confidential helpline. It can give you the time and space you need to say what you want, to let off some steam, or just to get your thoughts in order.

For a printed copy of this information contact our helpline.

Helpline

01494 601 400

Information and emotional support.

Confidential, national call rate.

Visit epilepsysociety.org.uk/helpline for opening hours.



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