

Epilepsy drugs to treat seizures

Medicines for Seizures (Epilepsy)

1. What are these medicines?

- These are called **anti-seizure medicines** (or anticonvulsants).
- They are used to **control or prevent seizures**, but they **do not cure epilepsy**.

2. How well do they work?

- About **70% of people can control seizures with medicines**.
- Many people need to take medicines **for a long time (often lifelong)**.

3. How do doctors choose the medicine?

Doctors don't give the same medicine to everyone. Choice depends on:

- Type of epilepsy/seizure
- Side effects the person can tolerate
- Other health problems
- Age and lifestyle

 **Important:** Correct diagnosis is very important before starting treatment.

4. Types of medicines (Examples)

Here are some commonly used medicines (simplified):

Regular daily medicines

- Carbamazepine
- Brivaracetam
- Cannabidiol (for difficult cases)
- Cenobamate

 Used to **prevent seizures regularly**

Emergency medicines (rescue medicines)

- Diazepam

- Lorazepam
- Clonazepam

👉 Used to:

- **Stop an ongoing seizure**
- Treat **emergency situations (e.g., long seizures)**

🟢 Daily Medicines (prevent seizures)

Brivaracetam (Briviact)

- Used even in young babies
- Side effects: sleepiness, dizziness, nausea

Cannabidiol (Epidiolex)

- Used for severe/difficult seizures
- Side effects: sleepiness, diarrhea, less appetite

Carbamazepine

- For many types of seizures
- Side effects: dizziness, nausea, rash, vision problems

Cenobamate

- For adults with focal seizures
- Side effects: dizziness, tiredness, headache

🔴 Emergency Medicines (stop ongoing seizures)

Diazepam, Lorazepam, Clonazepam

- Used in emergencies to stop seizures
- Available as injection, nasal spray, or gel
- Side effects: sleepiness, unsteady walking

🟢 Other Common Medicines

Eslicarbazepine

- Once daily medicine for focal seizures
- Side effects: dizziness, nausea, blurred vision

Ethosuximide

- For absence (brief staring) seizures
- Side effects: nausea, weight loss

Felbamate (rare use)

- For difficult cases only
- Needs regular blood tests (rare serious risks)

Fenfluramine

- For Dravet syndrome
- Side effects: low appetite, tiredness
- ⚠ Needs heart monitoring

Widely Used Medicines

Lacosamide

- Can be used alone or with others
- Side effects: dizziness, headache

Lamotrigine

- Works for many seizure types
- Usually well tolerated
- ⚠ Rare but serious skin rash

Levetiracetam (Keppra)

- Used with other medicines
- Side effects: tiredness, mood changes

More Medicines

Oxcarbazepine

- For focal seizures
- Side effects: dizziness, double vision

Perampanel

- For focal and generalized seizures
- ⚠ May cause mood/behavior changes

Phenobarbital

- Old and affordable medicine
- Side effects: sleepiness

Additional Medicines

Phenytoin

- Used in hospitals for severe seizures
- Side effects: gum swelling, dizziness

Pregabalin

- Add-on medicine
- Side effects: sleepiness, weight gain

Tiagabine

- Used with other medicines
- Side effects: dizziness, anxiety

Broad-Use Medicines

Topiramate

- For many seizure types
- Side effects: weight loss, memory problems

Valproate / Valproic acid

- For many seizure types
- Side effects: weight gain, tremor
-  Avoid in pregnancy

Zonisamide

- Add-on medicine
- Side effects: sleepiness, kidney stones

Message for Patients

- Medicines help **control seizures**
- **Regular use is very important**
- Some side effects are common but manageable
- Always **consult your doctor before stopping or changing medicine**

5. Common side effects

Different medicines have different side effects, but common ones include:

- Sleepiness or tiredness
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Vision problems
- Lack of energy
- Mood or behavior changes

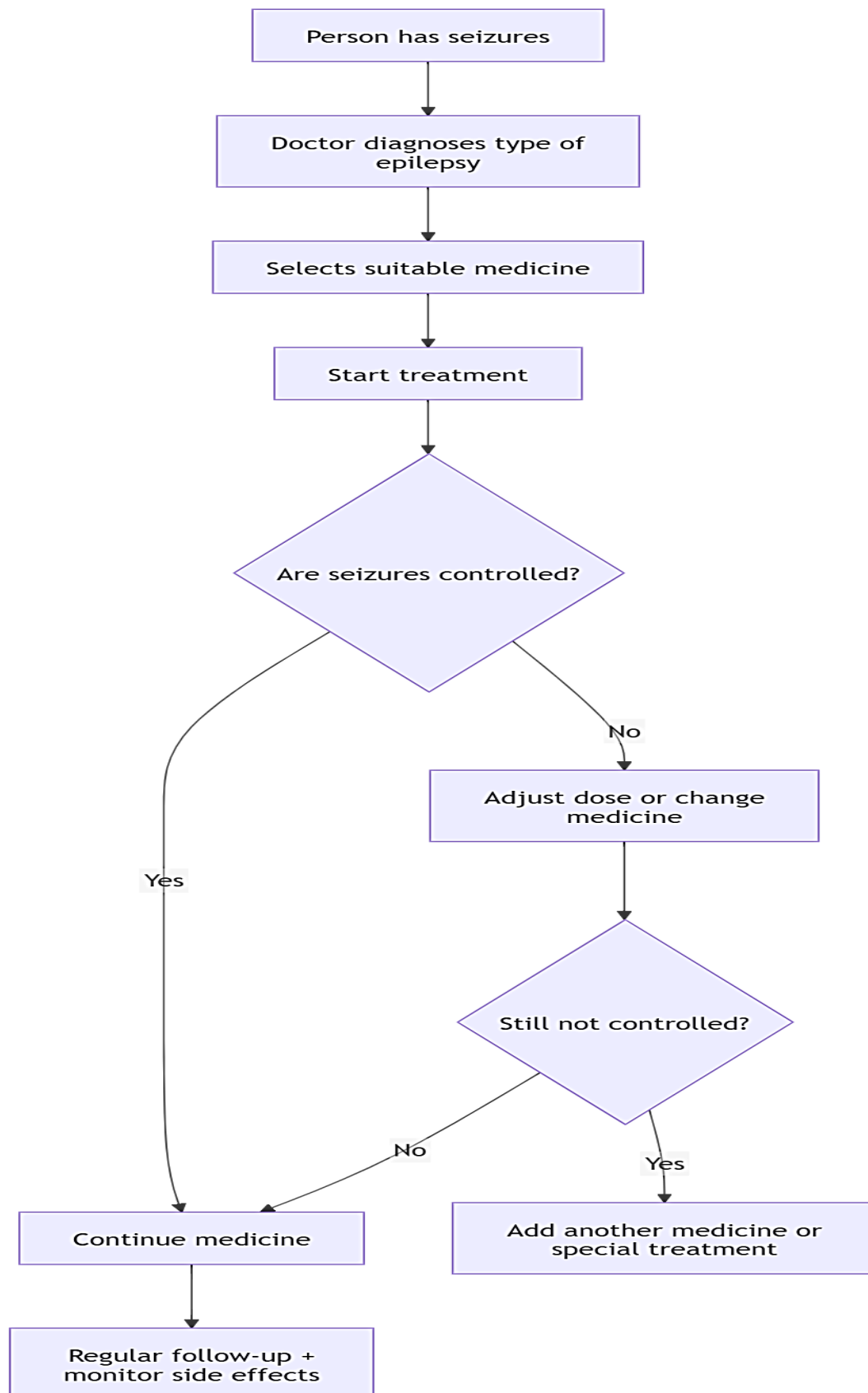
👉 Some special medicines may also cause:

- Appetite loss
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Sleep problems

6. Important things to remember

-  Take medicines **regularly as prescribed**
-  Do **not stop suddenly** (can cause severe seizures)
-  Doctors try to find the **lowest dose that controls seizures with least side effects**

 **Simple Flow Chart**





Key Takeaways

- Medicines help **control seizures but don't cure epilepsy**
- **Right medicine depends on the individual**
- Many people live normal lives with proper treatment
- **Consistency in taking medicine is very important**

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डॉ मेघा शर्मा

सह - प्राध्यापक

औषध विज्ञान विभाग

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सुरसा, उज्जैन, मध्य प्रदेश, भारत