

Children with epilepsy require expert diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care to achieve the best results. The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center within the Neurological Institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles is one of the country's leading programs in providing specialized care for children with epilepsy. Our goal is to optimize patients' outcomes and improve their quality of life.

A team approach is key to the program's success: Pediatric epileptologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, nurse practitioners and dietitians collaborate with specialists in radiology, anesthesiology, social work, physical and occupational therapy, and inpatient rehabilitation to deliver personalized treatment to meet each child's unique needs.

Every component of care—from the clinical equipment and surgical techniques to psychosocial support and common spaces—is designed specifically with children in mind.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

New-Onset Seizure Clinic

A multidisciplinary team of specialists evaluates patients no more than two weeks after their first seizure. This timely response leads to more accurate diagnoses from the beginning and enables early treatment to quickly address seizures.

Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)

The state-of-the-art inpatient Epilepsy Monitoring Unit is wired with the latest technology to monitor patients' brainwaves and seizure activity 24 hours a day. The data generated in the EMU provides specialists with valuable information about the type of seizure a child is experiencing and where it is originating in the brain. This allows our specialists to create detailed care plans tailored to each child.

Diet therapy

In some cases, certain types of diets can improve seizures. The Neurological Institute has one of the nation's largest diet therapy programs, with trained dietitians who help patients follow either a ketogenic, modified Atkins or low glycemic index diet.

Surgical solutions

For about a third of children with epilepsy, medications or dietary modifications are not enough to control their seizures. When surgery is deemed the best option, neurosurgeons work with the pediatric epilepsy team to employ the best surgical solution for each child. In some cases, resective surgery is performed to remove the region of the brain causing seizures. For patients who have a brain abnormality that is triggering seizures and is detected by an MRI test, our experts use ROSA robotic technology to perform minimally invasive laser ablation surgery to safely remove the abnormality. The epilepsy surgical team is experienced in every form of epilepsy surgery. They perform more than 75 epilepsy surgeries a year and have corrected seizure disorders in patients as young as 2 weeks old.

Genetic and neurogenetic testing

Through a partnership with the Center for Personalized Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center offers genetic testing and evaluation. Those results enable our experts to identify the genetic cause of patients' epilepsy and use that information to customize treatment plans.

EMU-compatible playroom

Children's Hospital Los Angeles houses the only epilepsy monitoring playroom in Southern California. Built with the same technology found in the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit—ceiling-mounted video cameras and Bluetooth-enabled EEG equipment—the room allows technologists to monitor patients' brain waves and correlate that activity with signs of seizures. In addition to giving families a break from their hospital room, the playroom provides kids with a chance to play and meet other children who have epilepsy.

ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center is certified as a Level 4 specialized epilepsy center—the highest level—by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers.
- The Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education and houses an EEG laboratory that is ABRET-certified by the national neurodiagnostic credentialing and accreditation organization.
- The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center's surgical success rates are among the highest in the country.
- Our physicians and researchers participate in clinical trials of new medications and other epilepsy treatments, giving patients access to advanced therapies not available at other centers.
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles is consistently recognized for its neurology and neurosurgery programs on U.S. News & World Report's honor roll of best children's hospitals.

REFERRALS, ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

Phone: 888-631-2452 • Fax: 323-361-8988
myCHLA Physician Portal: <https://myCHLA.CHLA.org>

INTERNATIONAL REFERRALS

Phone: +1-323-361-8737 • Fax: +1-323-361-3878
Email: internationalpatientreferrals@chla.usc.edu
CHLA.org/GlobalHealth

COMPREHENSIVE EPILEPSY CENTER

4650 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027

Phone: 323-361-2471
Fax: 323-361-1109

CHLA.org/Comprehensive-Epilepsy-Center