

Generalized epilepsy

Generalized epilepsy is a type of epilepsy in which seizures appear to originate simultaneously in both hemispheres of the brain. The **International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)** provides a classification system that helps clinicians describe and categorize epilepsy types more precisely.

□ Generalized Epilepsy: ILAE 2017 Classification

□ **1. Generalized Seizure Types** These are seizure types that start in both hemispheres at once:

- **Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures (GTCS)** ► Convulsions with stiffening (tonic) and jerking (clonic) phases.
- **Absence Seizures** ► Brief lapses in consciousness (e.g., staring spells).

Subtypes:

- Typical
- Atypical
- Myoclonic absence
- Eyelid myoclonia

- **Myoclonic Seizures** ► Sudden, brief muscle jerks, often in the arms or shoulders.
- **Tonic Seizures** ► Sustained muscle stiffening, typically during sleep.
- **Atonic Seizures** ► Sudden loss of muscle tone, causing drop attacks.
- **Clonic Seizures** ► Rhythmic jerking movements (rare in isolation in generalized epilepsy).

□ **2. Generalized Epilepsy Syndromes** These are broader syndromes that include multiple seizure types and typically have a known electroclinical pattern:

- **Childhood Absence Epilepsy (CAE)** - **Juvenile Absence Epilepsy (JAE)** - **Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy (JME)** - **Epilepsy with Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures Alone** - **Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS)** - although often considered combined generalized and focal - **Dravet Syndrome** - also has generalized and focal components

□ **3. Etiological Classification** ILAE recommends classifying the **cause** of generalized epilepsy under one or more of the following categories:

- **Genetic** (e.g., [idiopathic generalized epilepsy](#), JME) [Genetic generalized epilepsy](#) - **Structural** (less common in generalized forms) - **Metabolic** - **Immune** - **Infectious** - **Unknown**

□ **4. EEG Findings** - Generalized spike-and-wave or polyspike-and-wave discharges - Bilaterally synchronous - Normal background (in idiopathic types)

From:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/> - **Neurosurgery Wiki**

Permanent link:

https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=generalized_epilepsy

Last update: **2025/03/26 09:13**

