

First Seizure Evaluation

What Is a First Seizure Evaluation?

When a child's first seizure is unprovoked (not triggered by trauma, hypoglycemia or fever), it's important to determine if the child has [epilepsy](#) or an underlying neurological disorder. Once a child has one seizure, there's a heightened risk for more. That's why it's important for family members and caregivers to recognize signs of seizures—and be prepared to respond.



Our first seizure team includes nurse practitioners and pediatric neurologists who specialize in epilepsy

Once a child has one seizure, there's a heightened risk for more

We determine seizure type, cause and risk of having more seizures

Who Benefits From a First Seizure Evaluation?

Every year, tens of thousands of kids need medical attention because of a first or newly [diagnosed seizure](#). At Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, specialists evaluate children—from infants to teens—who experience an unprovoked or prolonged seizure.

Our First Seizure Clinic includes a team of specially trained nurse practitioners and pediatric neurologists who specialize in epilepsy.

What to Expect During a First Seizure Evaluation

During a first seizure evaluation, your child will meet with a nurse practitioner who specializes in seizure disorders to discuss medical history and complete a physical exam. We evaluate kids to determine seizure type, cause and risk of having more seizures.

If your child is very young, or has complex medical or developmental conditions, he or she will have a neurology evaluation, such as an [electroencephalogram \(EEG\)](#), the same day.

Following the evaluation, you'll talk with specialists about:

- The type, cause and risk of additional seizures.
- Seizures and what precautions will help ensure your child's safety during a seizure.

- How to recognize and monitor seizures.
- When and how to use rescue medicines.

How a First Seizure Evaluation Helps

Depending on the findings from the first seizure evaluation, if your child needs ongoing treatment, we work with your family to develop an individualized care plan that addresses the type and cause of your child's seizures.

A first seizure evaluation can help determine appropriate treatment. For example, we might recommend that you simply monitor your child. If the evaluation reveals an abnormal EEG or **MRI**, we might recommend **epilepsy treatments** such as seizure medication or, in rare instances, special food plans like a **ketogenic diet** or **low glycemic index diet**.

Integrated Care

At Gillette, you'll have the support of a comprehensive team of experts and specialists that works closely together to deliver the best care for your child.

In addition to your child having a first seizure evaluation, over the course of treatment, your family might work with:

- **Neurodevelopmental pediatrics**.
- **Neurodiagnostics**, for tests such as EEGs, VEEGs and overnight sleep studies.
- **Neurology**.
- **Neurosurgery**.
- **Pediatrics and general medicine**.
- **Radiology and imaging**.
- Sleep health.
- Psychology.
- Neuropsychology.

[Make An Appointment 651-290-8707](#) [Refer a Patient 651-325-2200](#)

This information is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care providers. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or others on your health care team.

If you are a Gillette patient with urgent questions or concerns, please contact Telehealth Nursing at [651-229-3890](#).