What You Epilepsy in Masindi Should Know

What is Epilepsy?
Epilepsy is a brain disorder that causes uncontrollable seizures. A person is diagnosed if they have had one or more unexplained seizures.

What Happens During a Seizure?
A seizure occurs when there is a sudden surge of electrical activity in the brain.

What Are The Symptoms Of A Seizure?
- Twitching
- Loss of muscle tone
- Muscle rigidity
- Difficulty swallowing or talking
- Staring spells
- Collapsing
- Shaking
- Unawareness
- Jerking movements

Fast Facts

ANYONE can develop epilepsy
Seizures occur for the first time in the elderly almost as often as they do in children

Epilepsy is NOT contagious!
It is not something you can "catch" from someone else

Epilepsy is NOT rare!
It can occur as a single condition, or together with other disorders affecting the brain

Epilepsy is chronic
Though the disease cannot be cured, medications help manage the symptoms

Epilepsy is a medical condition that is TREATABLE
It is NOT caused by witchcraft, a curse from God, exchanging saliva, or jumping over the urine of a person with epilepsy

Masindi, Uganda
10,000 people have epilepsy
They are isolated, looked down upon by society and have poor access to healthcare
Neglect, social harassment and lack of education are common problems they face

~40% report extreme difficulty in getting help from family or friends

>50% of households do not discuss epilepsy or explain it to children

Worldwide
65 million people have epilepsy
At least 200,000 people are diagnosed each year
The cause is unknown in at least 23 of people

Angel Gachhi