

# Antiepileptic drugs may progressively impair balance

November 4 2015



Generalized 3 Hz spike and wave discharges in a child with childhood absence epilepsy. Credit: Wikipedia.

In a study of 26 twin and sibling pairs where one of each pair had received long-term antiepileptic drug therapy, participants who were taking these medications swayed more during static and dynamic balance tests compared with their siblings who were not taking antiepileptic medications. They also showed a greater deterioration in sway tests over an average interval of 3 years.

Addressing these balance issues in patients taking [antiepileptic drugs](#) may help reduce their risk of falling, which can lead to fractures and other injuries.

"Use of the powerful discordant-pair study design enabled detection of these clinically-significant changes. The finding of progressive impairment of [balance](#) function underlines the need for further research as well as alerting clinicians to this important issue for patients on long-term antiepileptic drug therapy," said Dr. John D. Wark, co-author of the *Epilepsia* study.

**More information:** Baemisla Shiek Ahmad et al. Changes in balance function with chronic antiepileptic drug therapy: A twin and sibling study, *Epilepsia* (2015). [DOI: 10.1111/epi.13136](https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.13136)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Antiepileptic drugs may progressively impair balance (2015, November 4) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-antiepileptic-drugs-impair.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.