Of the 2.2 million Americans with epilepsy, approximately 30% have intractable epilepsy and continue to have seizures despite treatment with medications.

There’s hope for patients whose seizures are not well-controlled or who have side effects from medications. Specialized Level 3 and 4 epilepsy centers can provide the correct diagnosis and treatment necessary to control intractable epilepsy and help patients regain control over their lives.

Specialized Epilepsy Centers: Treating Intractable Epilepsy
What is an epilepsy center?

Epilepsy centers provide a comprehensive team approach to the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. A patient’s team will typically include epileptologists (neurologists with special expertise in treating seizures), neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists, nurse specialists, EEG technologists, social workers and others with special training and experience in epilepsy treatment. Their goal is to control or at least reduce the frequency of seizures and side effects for patients.

What are Level 3 and 4 epilepsy centers?

**Level 3**

Level 3 epilepsy centers provide an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with epilepsy, including medical, neuropsychological and psychosocial services. Many Level 3 centers offer non-invasive evaluation for epilepsy surgery and implantation of devices.

**Level 4**

Level 4 epilepsy centers serve as regional and/or national referral facilities for intractable epilepsy patients and offer a complete evaluation for epilepsy surgery and a broad range of surgical procedures for epilepsy. These centers perform more complex forms of intensive neurodiagnostic monitoring as well as medical and neuropsychological treatment. Many Level 4 centers are actively involved in clinical trials and are well aware of trials in other centers, allowing for patient referrals.
The National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) recommends that patients whose seizures are not fully controlled after treatment for one year be referred to a Level 3 or 4 specialized epilepsy center. In addition, patients may benefit from the advanced care provided by epilepsy centers if they:

- Continue to have seizures despite treatment with two different seizure medications
- Take multiple seizure medications daily
- Have unacceptable side effects
- Need advanced testing to confirm the diagnosis of epilepsy or find another cause for symptoms
- Need a team approach to epilepsy and other medical conditions such as depression, learning disabilities, anxiety, or problems with memory or thinking
- Want to learn about non-medication treatments for seizures - epilepsy surgery, the ketogenic diet, vagus nerve stimulator, and other new therapies
- Have seizures secondary to genetic disorders or other rare diseases
- Are pregnant or want to learn more about effects of epilepsy and seizure medications on pregnancy and the developing baby
- Are interested in participating in clinical trials of new experimental medical or device treatments for seizures
About the National Association of Epilepsy Centers

With the goal of no seizures and no side effects, the National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) strives to make high quality healthcare available and affordable for epilepsy patients across the country. NAEC is a non-profit trade association with a membership of more than 160 specialized Level 3 and 4 epilepsy centers in the United States. Founded in 1987 by physician-leaders committed to setting a national agenda for quality epilepsy care, the NAEC connects people with epilepsy to specialized epilepsy care and supports epileptologists in the operation of their epilepsy centers.

To learn more about the NAEC and view a complete list of Level 3 and 4 epilepsy centers visit: www.naec-epilepsy.org. Contact us at info@naec-epilepsy.org or 202-484-1100