

Childhood epilepsy not linked with later psychiatric disorders

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For decades, experts have been studying potential links between childhood epilepsy and various behavioral and psychiatric conditions and some have hypothesized that that they are part of a larger spectrum of brain disorders with shared mechanisms.

However, a new study of [young adults](#) has found no substantial or lasting association between [childhood epilepsy](#) and psychiatric disorders and suicidal behavior. The study included 257 young adults with childhood-onset epilepsy who were followed since the onset of their epilepsy approximately 15 years earlier and 134 sibling controls.

"To our knowledge, this is the first community-based study of childhood-onset epilepsy in which lifetime and current psychiatric disorders were assessed once children reached young adulthood," said Dr. Anne Berg, senior author of the *Epilepsia* study.

More information: Baldin, E., Hesdorffer, D. C., Caplan, R. and Berg, A. T. (2015), Psychiatric disorders and suicidal behavior in neurotypical young adults with childhood-onset epilepsy. *Epilepsia*. DOI: [10.1111/epi.13123](https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.13123)

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