

Saint Luke's Comprehensive Epilepsy Center

The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center is part of the renowned Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute at Saint Luke's Hospital. We offer special expertise and the region's most advanced diagnostic and treatment services for patients with epilepsy. We welcome the opportunity to evaluate patients age 12 and older for refractory seizures or unexplained lapses in awareness.

Easy Access and Coordinated Care

The Epilepsy Center Nurse Coordinator is the single point of contact for patients and families, and facilitates communication between the epilepsy medical team and the referring physician regarding a patient's diagnosis and recommended treatment plan. The Nurse Coordinator organizes appointments, ensures that appropriate records and films are obtained, navigates the patient through services, and provides support and education throughout diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

Diagnostics

Comprehensive diagnostic services are available to classify seizures, clarify diagnosis, and optimize treatment, including:

- Inpatient video electroencephalogram monitoring (video EEG)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Functional MRI (fMRI)
- Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS)
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
- Cerebral angiography
- Intracarotid sodium amytal testing (ISAT, or Wada)
- Licensed EEG technologists certified in intra-operative monitoring

Treatment Options

The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center offers a variety of treatment options, including:

- Vagal nerve stimulator implantation and management
- Neurosurgical evaluation and treatment
- Antiepileptic medications
- Investigational drug treatments
- Behavioral and dietary counseling



Back in the Driver's Seat

Seizures forced teenager Mary Jo Vyhanek to put driving in park and her swim meets on hold. Brain surgery at Saint Luke's got her back in the fast lane.



saintlukeshealthsystem.org

Epilepsy Medical Team

- **Epileptology** – Board-certified neurologists fellowship-trained in epilepsy provide comprehensive evaluation and treatment for patients with epilepsy or unexplained lapses in awareness.

John Croom, M.D., Ph.D.

Neurology Residency: Harvard Medical School Neurology Program - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)

Epilepsy Fellowship: Harvard Medical School Neurology Program - BIDMC

Ron Fields, M.D.

Neurology Residency: Harvard Medical School Neurology Program – BIDMC

Epilepsy Fellowship: Harvard Medical School Neurology Program - BIDMC

Areas of Interest: Early intervention for patients with medically refractory epilepsy. Special populations with epilepsy, including women and the elderly. Neurophysiologic monitoring, and tailored treatment of refractory seizures. Developing new therapeutic regimens for the treatment of epilepsy.

- **Neurosurgery** – Neurosurgeons perform both standard and tailored resective epilepsy surgeries.
- **Neuropsychology** – Licensed clinical neuropsychologists assess intellectual and behavioral function as part of the evaluation for epilepsy surgery.
- **Psychiatry** – Board-certified psychiatrists evaluate and treat psychological and psychiatric problems such as depression and anxiety, and are helpful in assisting patients with adjustment before and after epilepsy surgery. Therapies include counseling, psychotherapy, and medications.
- **Epilepsy Nurse Coordinator** – Board-certified nurse practitioner collaboratively practices with the epileptologists, facilitating communication among the Epilepsy Medical Team, patients, families, and referring physicians.
- **Social Work and Counseling Services** – Licensed Clinical Social Worker–Counselor provides both individual and group supportive counseling for patients and families affected by epilepsy, patients preparing for and/or adjusting to seizure freedom after epilepsy surgery, discusses social and personal issues, and may assist in identifying and obtaining precious resources.
- **Rehabilitation** – Physical, occupational, and speech therapists serve inpatients and outpatients, facilitating the transition back to productive wellness.

Other Services

Support services and referral information are available for organizations that offer education and resources to patients living with epilepsy and their families.

Spiritual support services are available 24/7 through the Spiritual Wellness department of Saint Luke's Health System.

Research

Participation in research initiatives allows us to provide patients access to the most current and evolving medications and technologies.

Our Pledge

To Patients: You will have ready access to the best available medical knowledge, utilizing cutting-edge technology, delivered by board certified specialty physicians, specialty trained nurses and technicians, in a safe and caring environment. Our goal in the treatment of epilepsy is “no seizures, no side effects.”

To Referring Physicians: We will work with you toward a goal of “No seizures, no side effects.” We will be accessible for phone consultations and timely patient appointments. Our communication with you will be complete and timely, assuring the greatest continuity of care for your patients.

To the Community: We will be a center of excellence and a resource to Kansas City and the surrounding region assuring that no patient should have to leave the area in order to receive the highest level of epilepsy care.

For more information:

**Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute
(816) 932-6002**

Saint Luke's Hospital
4401 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64111

For outpatient office appointments:

**John Croom, M.D., Ph.D.
Ron Fields, M.D.
(816) 531-4080**

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