

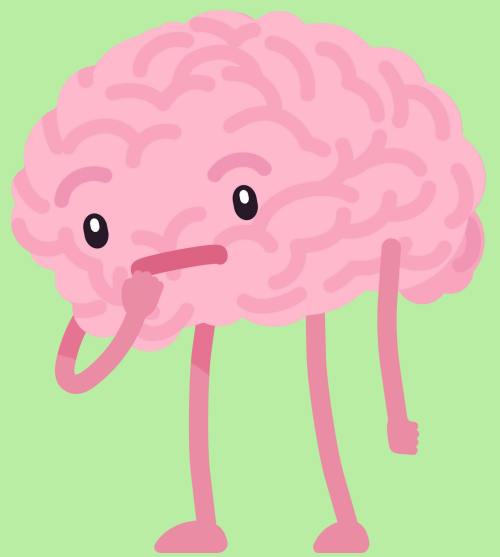
RECOGNIZING INFANTILE SPASMS

a pediatric emergency



WHAT ARE INFANTILE SPASMS?

Infantile spasms (IS), also known as West syndrome, is a rare but serious form of epilepsy that usually begins in infants under 12 months old. These tonic seizures are brief but frequent and often mistaken for normal baby movements. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical.



SYMPTOMS

Infantile spasms may look like:

- A sudden head drop
- Bending at the waist
- Arms flinging out or stiffening
- Eye movements (e.g., rolling or staring)

Typical Pattern:

- Occur in clusters (many over a few minutes)
- Often happen when baby is waking up or falling asleep

May be accompanied by:

- Loss of developmental milestones
- Irritability or changes in alertness



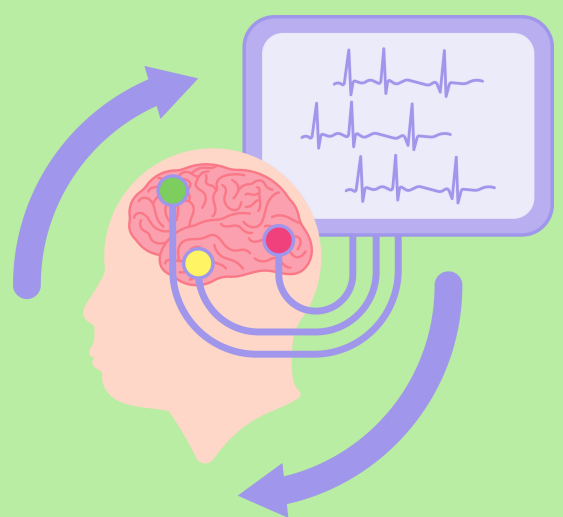
DIAGNOSIS AND CAUSE

Diagnosis Includes:

- EEG (electroencephalogram) to check brain activity
- MRI to detect any brain abnormalities
- Blood or genetic testing

Causes:

May be caused by structural brain abnormalities, metabolic or genetic disorders or unknown.



TREATMENT AND PROGNOSIS

Treatment Options:

Medications such as hormonal therapy/steroids and/or antiseizure drugs.

Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial!

Prognosis varies. Some children respond well to treatment and develop typically, while others may face developmental challenges or ongoing seizures.



SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY



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INFANTILE SPASMS & WEST SYNDROME: WWW.KNOWINFANTILESPASMS.COM

Find community and learn more about our mission to raise awareness for Infantile Spasms (IS) and support families impacted by IS at www.tykeswithspikes.org
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