

Pediatric Epilepsy

ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/pbc



NATIONALLY RANKED

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals are ranked in the top 20 nationwide for pediatric neurology and neurosurgery



#1 AMONG PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

in neurology research funding by the National Institutes of Health



RATED LEVEL 4 (the highest rating) for comprehensive pediatric epilepsy care by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers



ONE OF THE LARGEST SURGERY PROGRAMS

dedicated to epilepsy in the western U.S.

OVERVIEW

UCSF's Pediatric Epilepsy Center of Excellence is a trusted resource for physicians who want to ensure expert care for young patients with seizures. Part of the UCSF Pediatric Brain Center, our comprehensive program serves infants and children with all types of epilepsy, from the most common syndromes to those that are rare and more difficult to manage.

To provide complete care to each patient and family, our team includes specialists who are dual certified in pediatric neurology and epilepsy, as well as pediatric neurosurgeons, child psychiatrists, neuropsychologists, dietitians and social workers, among other dedicated staff members. Our team members will quickly and collaboratively design individualized treatment plans that meet the needs of your patients and their families. We share your goal of optimizing each child's care and health, and are eager to partner with you so that together we may ensure the best possible outcome for some of our most vulnerable patients.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Coordinated care by certified specialists with experience in all types of epilepsy
- Access through two hospital inpatient sites and a large network of outpatient sites throughout the Bay Area, as well as telehealth services
- The facilities and most advanced diagnostic testing available to provide quick yet complete evaluations, including MRI and functional MRI (fMRI), positron emission tomography (PET), magnetoencephalography (MEG), electroencephalography (EEG) — including intracranial seizure mapping with grid placement and stereo-electroencephalography — and neuropsychological assessment
- Expertise in all epilepsy therapies, from medications and dietary management to brain surgery, including vagus nerve stimulation, responsive neurostimulation (NeuroPace) and thermal ablation (Visualase)
- Access to unique ongoing clinical trials of epilepsy therapies

[MORE →](#)

INFORMATION / REFERRALS

- **PHONE 877-822-4453 (877-UC-CHILD)**

CONDITIONS TREATED

UCSF specialists are experts in all forms of epilepsy such as early-onset, atypical and difficult-to-treat seizures, including:

- Tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizures
- Absence (petit mal) seizures
- Myoclonic, clonic and tonic seizures
- Atonic (akinetic) seizures
- Partial seizures, including simple partial, complex partial and secondarily generalized seizures
- Treatment-resistant epilepsy
- Neonatal seizures
- Infantile spasms
- Dravet syndrome, PCDH19 epilepsy and related genetic epilepsies
- Hypothalamic hamartoma and gelastic seizures

WHY REFER TO UCSF?

- UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals are ranked 15th in the nation for pediatric neurology and neurosurgery, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, 2020-2021.
- We are a major referral center for children with epilepsy throughout the western United States.
- Our diagnostic and treatment capabilities are state-of-the-art. In particular, we are considered one of the most advanced centers in the world for neuroimaging.
- Patient navigators are available to help guide families, address their questions, provide support and offer resources.
- Pediatric patients and their families benefit from access to a child psychiatrist, an education liaison and an epilepsy therapist, as well as assistance with insurance plans and other helpful services.
- We make the referral process easy. The UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals Access Center is dedicated to specialty referrals, whether you are seeking outpatient, inpatient, neonatal or pediatric epilepsy services.
- We are dedicated to epilepsy research and active in clinical trials of promising epilepsy drugs, devices and procedures. Your patients may be eligible to participate.
- We believe high-quality care for individual patients is founded on partnerships between their primary care doctors and their specialists, as well as on a collaborative approach by an entire team dedicated to understanding and treating their disorder.

OUR TEAM

Joseph Sullivan, MD

Director, Pediatric Epilepsy Center of Excellence pediatric epilepsy specialist

Kurtis Auguste, MD

Director, Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery

Danilo Bernardo, MD

Pediatric epilepsy specialist

Marisa Gardner, MD

Pediatric epilepsy specialist

Ernesto Gonzalez-Giraldo, MD

Pediatric epilepsy specialist

Ali Mostajeean, MD

Pediatric epilepsy specialist

Adam Numis, MD

Pediatric epilepsy specialist

Nilika Singhal, MD

Pediatric epilepsy specialist

Khyati Brahmabhatt, MD

Pediatric psychiatrist

Brianna Paul, PhD

Pediatric epilepsy neuropsychologist

Nicolle Napier-Ionascu, PhD

Neuropsychologist

Nicole Tilton, NP, MSN

Nurse practitioner

Kristin Adkins, BSN, RN

Nurse coordinator

Camron Scott, BSN, RN

Nurse coordinator

Karen Mixon-Martin, MS

Pediatric epilepsy educational liaison

Desiree Dieste, MSW, MPH

Pediatric social worker

Sarianne Madsen, RD

Dietitian

Lauren Christopher

Psychometrist

10.20-GGS006

INFORMATION / REFERRALS

- PHONE 877-822-4453 (877-UC-CHILD)