

How you can Help!

What do I have to do?

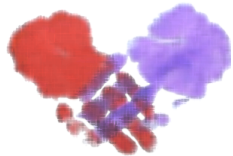
Families who would like to participate will be asked to do the following:

- Speak to us about their medical history
- Give us a small blood or saliva sample from all participating family members
- An EEG may be performed in families with several members with epilepsy

We do our best to make it convenient for you and your family to take part.

- It doesn't cost anything
- We can come to you
- A family visit generally takes only 1-2 hours.

There will be no change in your health care



Funding for this study is provided by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke grant NS 37466. This research is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current U.S. laws.

Confidentiality

Because our work involves talking to people about their medical histories, confidentiality issues can come up.

Be assured that:

- Information stays confidential
- We always ask your permission
- We never share your information
- Tests cannot be traced back to you

Remember, making contact with us carries no obligation on your part and doesn't affect your routine medical care.

Contact us today!

Whether you want more information or you've made up your mind to take part, call us at the number below between 10am to 5pm EST, Monday to Friday.

**Call Toll-Free:
1-877-223-5900**

Or if you have access to the web:

<http://www.petitmal.com>

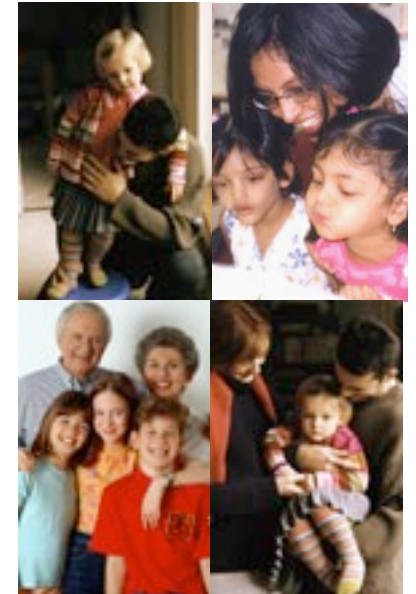
email us at:

CAE@biostat.cpmc.columbia.edu



Childhood Absence Epilepsy Family Study

Participant Information



**Call Toll-Free:
1-877-223-5900**
www.petitmal.com

What is CAE?



What is Childhood Absence Epilepsy (CAE)?

CAE is one of the most common epilepsies in children.

- Seizures occur many times a day and usually consist of “staring spells,” during which the child loses awareness.
- Medications are often effective in controlling seizures.
- Seizures have an onset between ages 3-10, and nearly 70% of children outgrow symptoms by puberty.
- **Cause is unknown**



What causes it?

Although we don't know the precise cause of CAE, there are a number of clues that suggest that part of it is genetic.

- CAE runs in families
- 30% of children with CAE have another family member with epilepsy

How you can help!

At Columbia University in New York we are working out the cause of all the common epilepsies affecting children. We have already been successful in finding genes for adolescent epilepsies. Now we're recruiting families to help us find the cause of Childhood Absence Epilepsy (CAE). By joining our study, you could be playing an important part in finding the both the causes of childhood epilepsy, and eventually **new treatments**.

Will you join us?

We need 200 families to join our effort to find the genes for CAE. If your doctor has diagnosed your child with CAE, or if you remember having it when you were younger then you might qualify to join the study.

Remember, in addition to the individuals who have CAE, we also need the help of the parents and siblings.

The more families that join us, the better our chances are of finding the causes of CAE.

About our Research Team

For this research project we have assembled a number of individuals in many fields of expertise. Your child's physician is part of a large network of pediatric neurologists that collaborate with the director of this study, Dr. Martina Durner, a neurologist and geneticist now teaching and doing research at Columbia University. Together with the physicians and nurses that are a part of this network, our staff of epidemiologists, molecular biologists, pediatricians, neurologists and geneticists at Columbia University are trying to find the genes associated with CAE.

When you call, you might speak to:

- Sandra Wrigley and Dana Politis, Study Coordinators
- Dr. Martina Durner, Principal Investigator

