

Laser Surgery An Option For Severe Epilepsy

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SAN DIEGO -- Drug-refractory epilepsy patients who are poor candidates for conventional surgical therapies may benefit from new laser-based approaches, researchers said here.

Several case series presented at the American Epilepsy Society's annual meeting indicated that MRI-guided laser surgeries effectively decreased seizure frequencies, with shorter recovery periods and possibly less cost than would be expected with standard craniotomy.

The six reports covered experiences with 39 pediatric and adult patients with severe seizure disorders of different kinds, including mesial and nonmesial temporal lobe epilepsy and various seizure-inducing tumors, from groups across the country.

Researchers presenting the results indicated that the procedure may make surgical therapy possible for patients who could not tolerate craniotomy because of psychobehavioral comorbidities, or who have seizure foci in locations where conventional surgery would create too much damage to nontarget brain tissue.

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