



Australian Prescriber



AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW

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MEDICATIONS MAY LOWER EPILEPTIC SEIZURE THRESHOLD

Antibiotics and painkillers are among several commonly used medicines which may increase the likelihood of seizures in people with epilepsy.

In the latest issue of *Australian Prescriber*, Professor Neil Buchanan from the University of Sydney says people with epilepsy are not sufficiently informed about the factors which lower seizure thresholds and make them more liable to have fits.

These factors include medication, alcohol, stress, sleep deprivation, menstruation and - especially in children - infection and fever.

Anti-epileptic drugs may also, on occasion, make seizures worse when first introduced or if the dose is excessive, and there have been reports of seizures after anaesthesia.

Professor Buchanan has compiled a list of potential seizure-provoking medications to alert doctors and people with epilepsy to medications that could trigger seizures. Although these adverse effects are uncommon, awareness of the problem may help prevent a seizure, says Professor Buchanan.

The list may be viewed in the current issue on the *Australian Prescriber* web site at <http://www.australianprescriber.com>

For a copy of the article or information about *Australian Prescriber*, visit the homepage at <http://www.australianprescriber.com> or phone 02 6289 7038.

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Australian Prescriber is a national independent review of therapeutic topics, designed to assist health professionals in their duties. The journal provides independent comment - no advertising is accepted.

Among other articles, the current issue of *Australian Prescriber* also looks at:

- Treatments for heroin addiction
- Celery seed tablet interactions with thyroxine
- Electronic prescribing in hospitals