Apart from the clinical care of patients, some of the most important tasks of the Erlangen Epilepsy Centre are the research of the causes of epilepsy and the advancement of diagnostic and therapeutic methods. Special emphasis is placed on the development and utilization of innovative diagnostic procedures and on the training of neurologists and neurologists-in-training in this area of expertise.

Research of the causes of epilepsy is an area of study, the main focus being on inflammatory changes, electrophysiological symptoms of different forms of epilepsy and their genetic background.

The Epilepsy Centre’s health services research focuses on the social contacts and quality of life of its patients. Numerous projects of the neuropsychological working group are concerned with the cognitive and emotional aspects of epilepsy. In these research projects, the Centre maintains interdisciplinary collaborations with other clinics and research institutions as well as the general public.

In cooperation with the Epilepsy Centre, the Division of Paediatric Radiology offers a long-term video-EEG monitoring. Furthermore, EEG and neurofunctional diagnostics are used in cooperation with the Erlangen Centre to determine whether epilepsy surgery is indicated.

The Centre specializes in the ambulatory treatment of different forms of epilepsy. Apart from the clinical care of patients, some of the most important tasks of the Erlangen Epilepsy Centre are the research of the causes of epilepsy and the advancement of diagnostic and therapeutic methods. Special emphasis is placed on the development and utilization of innovative diagnostic procedures and on the training of neurologists and neurologists-in-training in this area of expertise.

For increased knowledge about epilepsies and improved therapy, close cooperation in epilepsy research with a donation:

If you would like to support our scientific research with a donation:

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Clinical priorities

- Successful treating epilepsy with modern methods

- Comprehensive examinations for optimal therapy

Basic diagnostics

- Patients who may be eligible for surgical epilepsy therapy are admitted for inpatient treatment and examined thoroughly within the following days. The subsequent diagnostic imaging and functional tests can provide important information about the brain structures causing the epilepsy.

- If the first results are promising, video-EEG monitoring can be carried out. This allows the treatment team to gather important information about what happens during a seizure.

- Complementary examinations, such as magnetoencephalography (MEG), PET, and SPECT, can provide additional information about the source of the epileptic seizures.

- Neuropsychological and functional tests are conducted to determine the optimal therapeutic method for each patient.

Neuropsychology

- Preservation mental and psychological performance

- Preoperative evaluation

Video-EEG monitoring

- Safe and comfortable diagnosing with modern digital technology

Magnetencephalography (MEG)

- Preparing seizure focus in the brain

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder that affects approximately 1% of the German population. It is characterized by uncontrolled brain activity that causes seizures. The treatment of epilepsy is guided by the individual therapeutic aims.

At the Epilepsy Centre of the University Hospital Erlangen, comprehensive diagnostics and procedures such as video-EEG monitoring and magnetoencephalography (MEG) are available for inpatient use. These advanced imaging techniques help locate the epilepsy focus and to preserve the patient's mental and psychological functions.

Social work

- Solving multi-layered problems

Epilepsy often occurs in multiple, overlapping syndromes, making it challenging to address. The Epilepsy Centre provides social work support to patients before and after epilepsy surgery, providing counselling and advice on a wide range of topics related to epilepsy, work, and social integration.

With its 50 departments and institutes, the University Hospital Erlangen is a leading institution in the therapy and research, especially of diseases of the central nervous system. Approximately 1,000 patients suffering from epilepsy are treated in cooperation with the University's Department of Neurology (Head: Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Michael Buchfelder), the Department of Nuclear Medicine (Head: Prof. Dr. Stefan Schwab) and has a modern, digital video-EEG monitoring unit in its disposal. Furthermore, other important diagnostic examinations like MRI, PET/CT, and MEG are offered in cooperation with the Department of Neuroradiology (Head: Prof. Dr. Arnd Dörfler) and the Department of Nuclear Medicine (Head: Prof. Dr. Thomas Krämer). The planning and execution of epilepsy surgeries is carried out in cooperation with the Department of Neurosurgery (Head: Prof. Dr. Michael Buchfelder), the functional neurosurgery and epilepsy surgery (Head: Prof. Dr. Arnd Dörfler) and the Department of Neurology (Head: Prof. Dr. Torsten Kuwert). The aim of this so-called ‘double image recording’ is to gather important information about what happens during a seizure.

The Erlangen Epilepsy Centre has one special feature of the video-EEG system in Germany, that patients can move around the room freely during the diagnostic procedure. Moreover, the Erlangen Epilepsy Centre has access to highly advanced digital technology, an MRI, PET, and SPECT at its disposal. The high accuracy of data processing and the difficulty of executing this examination are the source of the epileptic seizures. Due to the technical complexity of executing this examination, few clinics worldwide have MEG systems at their disposal.