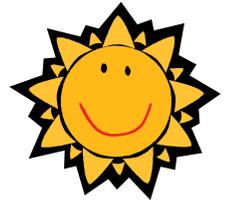




The Matty Fund®  
Epilepsy Resource Center  
*For children and families*  
www.MattyFund.org



June, 2012

As the new Executive Director of the Matty Fund, I am excited about the expansion of our Discovering My Epilepsy® Family Support Group! In addition to our Wakefield location at our new Resource Center, we will now be better able to accommodate more families throughout the state with our Lincoln and Warwick sites. Our goal is to make it easier and more accessible for parents and children to participate in this valuable program. Watch your email for more information which will be available soon. Also, don't forget that Camp Matty is just a few weeks away, get your application in soon if you would like to participate. Please contact Jessie Kenyon, our Family Outreach Coordinator at 789-7330 or [Jessie@mattyfund.org](mailto:Jessie@mattyfund.org) for more information on Matty Fund family programs and events.

**-Kathy Anzeveno**

### **The Anti Epilepsy 'Miracle' Diet**

Published by Medical News Today, Article Date: 24 May 2012

It's always been the old wives' remedy for Epilepsy, that eating a high fat diet, low in carbs would help people reduce or prevent seizures. Now, researchers at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School have uncovered the science behind the so called miracle cure for Epilepsy.

The research, which was published in the May 24th issue of the journal *Neuron*, suggests that resistance to seizures is caused by a protein that modifies cellular metabolism in the brain. The neurological disorder basically causes a rainstorm of electronic activity in the brain that results in convulsions, loss of motor control and even unconsciousness. Cutting off sugar in the diet forces the brain to run on fat, which in turn produces a bi-product known as ketone bodies.

While this effect has been known to reduce epilepsy for more than 80 years, Nika Danial, HMS assistant professor of cell biology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Gary Yellen, professor of neurobiology at Harvard Medical School believe they have uncovered the process behind it.

Yellen, who was introduced to the ketogenic diet through his wife, Elizabeth Thiele said: *"The connection between metabolism and epilepsy has been such a puzzle ... I've met a lot of kids whose lives are completely changed by this diet ... It's amazingly effective, and it works for many kids for whom drugs don't work."* Danial adds: *"We knew we needed to come at this link between metabolism and epilepsy from a new angle."*

Using epileptic mice, the scientists altered the protein known as BCL-2-associated agonist of cell death (BAD), and used to promote ketones and lower glucose levels. Seizures decreased, but not in those mice genetically altered not to have the protein.

Yellen likens the change to switching a car from diesel to unleaded. Running the cell on a different fuel prevents the neurons from firing wrongly. Although the full extent of the changes still need further research, Danial said they are confident the work can be used for neurodegenerative disorders.

The study was funded by Harvard Catalyst, Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy, and the NIH.

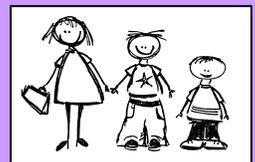
Written by: Rupert Shepherd

Copyright: Medical News Today



**Camp Matty**  
**July 9-12**

Therapeutic horseback riding summer day camp for children diagnosed with epilepsy sponsored by the Matty Fund contact us if you would like to receive an application packet! Space is limited.



**Discovering My Epilepsy® Family Support Group**  
In Warwick, Lincoln, and Wakefield, RI  
Starting this fall.

**Have a great summer!**

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