

Soundbite Script – Tackling Epilepsy

Dr. Tariq Gheith, Neurologist, OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute

“I just read a report that says he can grow out of it, which can mean one of two things. He just has a childhood epilepsy, which is benign and you grow out of it when you’re older, or because he’s been seizure free for so long, it’s possible he’s outgrown his epilepsy in which both cases is very possible.”

Dr. Tariq Gheith, Neurologist, OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute

“The most objective way to diagnose it is with an electroencephalogram or EEG. Sometimes in some patients their brain waves can show us they are prone to seizing or sometimes we capture a seizure while they’re hooked up to the brain wave, which is the EEG. But we’re not really that fortunate with most patients. With most patients it’s what they tell me in the visit. There are certain features which say it might be epilepsy and then there are certain features that say this might be something else.”

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“If he’s really been seizure free for three years, that’s an excellent sign. It is a violent sport. Any time you get your head hit, any time you increase stress, it can put you at risk for seizures. It all depends on his level or intensity of what his epilepsy is. It sounds like he has a very mild form.”

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“It’s not always what you see in the movies. It’s not just you shaking all over the place and losing consciousness. You can very well retain consciousness during a seizure and you can do that for years and be seizing and not know it. It’s always a good idea to reach out to somebody just for your own peace of mind.”