

Heather

I am 16 years old and have been living with seizures since I was one year old, although it was not until I was 15 months old that my parents had been told by my pediatrician that I had been having seizures. Referred to a neurologist by my pediatrician, I was diagnosed



as having complex partial seizures. I was then put on anti seizure medication and appointments were made for me to have an EEG and a baseline MRI. The results of the MRI had shown that there was cause to send me for a second MRI. The results of the second MRI showed that there was a brain tumor in the right interior temporal lobe of my brain. The tumor, which was benign, was mostly then removed. A small portion of the tumor is still there because the surgeon feared damage to the optic nerve. The hope was that after most of the tumor was removed from my brain that the seizure would

have stopped. However, that was not the case for me. In fact, soon after her surgery, my seizures had started occurring again. That was when I was diagnosed with epilepsy.

I continued having seizures until third grade when they stopped for about three years.

Unfortunately, I started having them again around sixth grade. It was during sixth grade that I was given someone to walk with her during passing time in school due to my seizures. That stopped at the end of that year even though my seizures continued.

I am now a Junior in High School. I has some social anxieties at school and struggles with reading comprehension at times. However, I have good grades and play tennis at my school. I also participate in clubs at school as well. Outside of school I have been involved with the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut. I participated in the 2012 Kids Speak Up! program and the 2012 National Walk for Epilepsy in Washington D.C.. I am an active member of the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut's Youth Council as well. I am very passionate about epilepsy awareness and fighting against the stigma of epilepsy. I also make handmade jewelry to sell in order to raise money for the foundation. I won't let epilepsy limit me from living life.

