Today’s story was prepared by Ava Lin, MD, based on a 2012 NY Times article *New Epilepsy Tactic: Fight Inflammation*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/05/health/research/new-epilepsy-tactic-fight-inflammation.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0>

This article addresses the likely component of neuro-inflammation contributing to some seizure pathways and risks to behavior, development and learning associated with recurrent seizures. It begins and ends with a profile of a mother giving her child with intractable seizures steroids at dosing high beyond the prescribed amount observing her child’s seizures to have stopped immediately at that point. This article balances interviews of neurologists identified as well-versed in immune-modulation and epilepsy, and provides scientific background. Quotes from 2 experts (Dr. Devinsky, is the associated director of scientific journal of Epilepsy and Behavior; and. Dr. French, a moderator for a new epilepsy medication) are used but without providing literature reference sources. The piece ends with a dramatic quote from mother, “I was taking his life into my hands, I know. But the way I looked at it, he was going to die anyway.” Despite the reality of the at-times underappreciated SUDEP (sudden unexpected death in epilepsy), mother’s statement may drive readers to falsely justify using “mega doses” of steroids as the miracle drug for patients with intractable epilepsy without clear specification that partial seizures can be responsive to this type of a treatment, but not other epileptic seizures such as absence seizures.

**EPILEPSY RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES:**

<http://www.epilepsy.com/>

 Contains comprehensive links for the laymen to read and learn about the different types of epilepsy, SUDEP, and long term effects of epilepsy. It also has a link discussing the various on-going clinical trials for new AEDs.

<http://www.cureepilepsy.org/getinvolved/clinical_trials.asp>

 Information about how to get involved in an AED clinical trial

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/epilepsy/epilepsy.htm>

 NINDS’s overview of seizure disorders and current research directions