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New Monitoring Unit Offers Clearer View Of Epilepsy

Doctors Say Unit Helps To Pinpoint Problem Area

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- Epilepsy is the third most common neurological disorder in the United States, but it's also often misdiagnosed.

A new epilepsy monitoring unit at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale is helping doctors get a clearer view of brain activity, which is leading to better diagnoses and treatment.

"I've suffered from mild epilepsy all my life," said Coral Springs resident Gerry Pizza. "I found out about this unit, and my doctor said it would be good to undergo monitoring."

Holy Cross Neurologist Eduardo Locatelli said the monitoring unit allows medical experts to pinpoint the area of the brain that's causing the seizures.

"Then we can say whether you're a good candidate for surgery to remove that part of the brain, and if we're right, the epilepsy is cured or at least significantly improved," Locatelli said.

The monitoring unit can also determine if someone diagnosed with epilepsy actually does not have the condition, which would allow them to stop taking unnecessary medication.

After monitoring Pizza's brain, doctors determined he was a good candidate for surgery. Since undergoing the operation, he's never had another seizure.

"I'm not just happy about it for myself, I'm happy about the other people it will help in the future," he said.

For more information, contact Locatelli at 954-414-9750 or go to www.floridaneuroscience.com.

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