Evaluating patients with epilepsy is aimed at determining what type of seizures they are having and their cause. Various seizure types respond best to specific treatments. The diagnosis of epilepsy is based on:

- The patient’s medical history, including any family history of seizures, associated medical conditions, and current medications. Also helpful to the doctor is the input of people who have witnessed a patient’s seizures, especially if there is a loss of consciousness. Some important questions a patient will be asked include:
  - At what age did the seizures begin?
  - What circumstances surrounded your first seizure?
  - What factors seem to bring on the seizures?
  - What do you feel before, during, and after the seizures?
  - How long do the seizures last?
  - Have you been treated for epilepsy before?
  - What medications were prescribed and in what dosages?
  - Was the treatment effective?