

Mayo Clinic Minute: Using lasers on the brain to treat seizures

VIDEO	AUDIO
	It's treatment for epileptic seizures that uses a laser on the brain.
	"LITT is 'laser interstitial thermal therapy.'"
	Through a small hole in the skull, a catheter with a laser the size of a pencil lead is guided by MRI to the area of the brain where the seizures originate.
Jamie Van Gompel, M.D. Neurosurgery Mayo Clinic	"And you can treat a lesion by heating it. And if you heat it enough, the proteins that are in a certain configuration unfold."
	It's minimally invasive, and has a shorter recovery time and less risk of complications and side effects, like headaches. But the drawback is that it can be slightly less effective in reducing seizures than a traditional open brain surgery.
	"If you have temporal epilepsy, and we start with the laser treatment, if it doesn't work, we can do an open procedure."
	"Laser ablation has a nice niche in epilepsy therapies. And it's just expanded our surgical options at this point in time where there's very few patients that I see that I can't treat anymore with something that may help them."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.