



# The Sturge-Weber Foundation

*The stronger the wind, the tougher the trees*

## Sturge-Weber Syndrome Terminology

**Amblyopia** (ăm"•blē•ō'•pē•ă) Poor vision due to non-use of an eye caused by underdevelopment of the visual pathway to the brain

**Angiogram** (ăn'•jē•ō•grăm) X-ray test to outline the blood vessels of an organ such as the brain. Uses a dye which is injected into a blood vessel (arteries) in the arm or groin. The dye shows up on the X-ray and therefore outlines all the blood vessels

**Angioid Streaks** (ăn'•jē•oyd)(strēks) Lines resembling blood vessels.

**Angiogenesis** (ăn"jē•ō•jěn'ě•sís) development of blood vessels.

**Angioma** (ăn"•jē•ō'•mă) Any malformation made up of blood vessels. These could be veins or a combination of arteries and veins (arteriovenous malformations or AVMs)

**Anticonvulsant** (ăn"•tī•kõn•vũl'•sănt) Any medication that counteracts seizures.

**Arteriogram** (ăr"•tē'•rē•ō•grăm) Same as Angiogram.

**Astigmatism** (ă•stīg•mă•tīzm) Unequal curve of the refractive surfaces of the eye, leading to a blurry image on the retina when the astigmatism is a significant degree.

**Babinski's Reflex** (bă•bĩn'•skēz)(rē'•flēks) A reflex named after Prof. Babinski. Stroking the sole of the foot should normally cause the big toe to point downwards. A babinski sign is when it points up instead, and the other toes fan out. Implies spasticity. A babinski reflex is considered normal in the immature nervous system, such as in a baby.

**Bilateral** (bī•lăt'•ěr•ăl) Both sides, as opposed to Unilateral (one side).

**Buphthalmos** (būf•thăl'•mõs) Enlarged size of the eye. Caused by Glaucoma occurring in infancy.

**CAT scan** (căt skăn) (Computed Axial Tomography) X-ray of any organ, including the brain that uses computer reconstruction of multiple images at different planes.

**Cataract** (kăt'•ă•răckt) An opacity in the lens of the eye. May obstruct vision.

**Congenital** (kõn•jěn'•ĩ•tăl) Occurring from the time of birth.

**Contralateral** (kõn"•tră•lăt'•ěr•ăl) On the opposite side.

**Convulsion** (kõn•vũl'•shũn) Seizure. Abnormal electrical discharge of the brain causing a motor, sensory, or behavioral disturbance.

**Corpus Callosum** (kõr'•pũs)(kã•lõ'•sũm) White matter tract connecting the left and right hemispheres (halves) of the brain.

**Cutaneous Lesions** (kũ•tã'•nẽ•ũs)(lẽ'•zhũn) Skin lesions.

**Dermatologist** (dẽr"•mã•tõl'•õ•jĩst) Skin doctor.

**EEG/Electroencephalogram** (ẽ•lẽk"•trõ•ẽn•sẽf'•ã•lõ•grãm) A recording of brain electrical activity.

**Focal Seizure** (fõk'•ãl)(sẽ'•zhũr) Seizure arising from one part of the brain.

**Forme Fruste** (fõrm frõst) An atypical form of a disease, a variation of the disease.

**Frontal Lobe** (frũnt'•ãl)(lõb) Most forward lobe of the brain. Deals with higher cognitive function i.e. planning, organizing, etc. Contains the motor cortex.

**Generalized Seizure** (jẽn"•õ•rõ'•lĩzd)(sẽ'•zhũr) Seizure affecting much of the brain and involving loss of consciousness or awareness.

**Glaucoma** (glaw•kõ'•mã) Increased pressure in the eye causing damage. May lead to blindness if not treated.

**Goniotomy** (gõ"•nẽ•õt'õ•mẽ) Surgical procedure for removing obstructions to the free flow of aqueous humor into the canal of Schlemm of the eye.

**Hemangioma** (hẽ•mãn"jẽ•õ'mã) A benign tumor of dilated blood vessels.

**Hemiplegia** (hẽm•ẽ•plẽ'•jẽ•ã) Paralysis of one side of the body. Hemiparesis is milder, where there is weakness (not paralysis) of one side of the body.

**Homonymous Hemianopsia** (hõ•mõn'•ĩ•mũs) (hẽm"•ẽ•ã•nõp'sẽ•ã) Visual impairment or blind spot of one half of one's visual field, for example left half of each visual field in each eye (not one eye).

**Intracranial Calcification**(ĩn"•trã•krã'•nẽ•ãl) (kãl"•sĩ•f ĩ•kã'•shũn) Calcium deposits in the brain.

**Intractable Seizures** (ĩn-trãk'•tã•b'l)(sẽ'•zhũr) Seizures that cannot be controlled.

**Ipsilateral** (ĩp"•sĩ•lãt'•ẽr•ãl) On the same side (as opposed to Contralateral)

**Ischemia** (ĩs•kẽ'mẽ•ã) Local & temporary deficiency of blood supply due to obstruction of the circulation to a part.

**Lobectomy** (lõ•bẽk'•tõ•mẽ) Operation to remove one lobe of the brain. There are four lobes on each side of the brain (Frontal Lobe, Temporal Lobe, Parietal Lobe, Occipital Lobe).

**MRA** (Magnetic Resonance Angiography) An MRI technique designed to view the major arteries of the brain.

**MRI** (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) A scan of the brain (or other organ) which does not use radiation, but uses magnetic energy.

**Neurologist** (nū·rōl'·ō·jĭst) A doctor who specializes in diseases of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles.

**Neurosurgeon** (nū·rō·sūr'·jŭn) A doctor who specializes in operations of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves.

**Occipital Lobe** (ōk"·sĭp'·ĭ·tāl)(lōb) The lobe at the most posterior (back) part of the brain. Deals with vision.

**Occupational Therapist** (ōk"·ū·pā'·shŭn·ăl) (thĕr'·ă·pĭst) A professional specialist in development of fine motor skills.

**Ophthalmologist** (ōf·thāl·mōl'·ō·jĭst) A doctor with a medical degree, who specializes in diseases of the eye.

**Parietal Lobe** (pā·rĭ'·ĕ·tāl)(lōb) Just in front of the Occipital Lobe. Deals with sensory functions.

**PET Scan** (pĕt)(skăn) (Positron Emission Tomography) A scan that looks at function, rather than structure of an organ, including the brain.

**Physical Therapist** (fĭz'·ĭ·kāl)(thĕr'·ă·pĭst) A professional specialist in development of gross motor skills and physical activities.

**Port Wine Stain** (port)(wĭn)(stān) Characteristic birthmark of SWS. Usually on the face, but can extend to other parts of the body, particularly the neck and trunk. A port wine stain by itself does not necessarily constitute SWS.

**Prognosis** (prōg·nō'·sĭs) Predicted outcome.

**Seizure** (sē'·zhŭr) Spontaneous firing in the brain to cause a detectable change in the body. Seizures can be convulsive (such as grand mal) or nonconvulsive (such as absence).

**SPECT** (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography) noninvasive imaging techniques that depicts altered brain blood flow.

**Stroke** (strōk) In common usage, this refers to a part of the brain being suddenly deprived of its blood supply, leading to weakness or other symptoms.

**Temporal Lobe** (tĕm'·pōr·ăl)(lōb) The lobes on either side of the brain, slightly above and in front of the ears. Deals with emotions, memory, language.

**Thrombosis** (thrŏm·bō'·sīs) Blood clot.

**Trabeculotomy** (tră·bĕk"·ū·lĕk'·tō·mē) A type of glaucoma surgery to lower the pressure in a glaucomatous eye.

**Unilateral** (ū"·nī·lăt'·ĕr·ăl) On one side.

*Sturge-Weber Foundation Fact Sheets are intended to provide basic information about SWS, KT and/or PWS. They are not intended to, nor do they, constitute medical or other advice. Readers are warned not to take any action with regard to medical treatment without first consulting a physician. The SWF does not promote or recommend any treatment, therapy, institution or health care plan.*

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