

50+ NAMES FOR EPILEPSY IN AFRICA

(WITH LANGUAGE & COUNTRIES SHOWN)

Epilepsy is found in all communities of the world. It affects both males and females, black people and white people, children and adults, rich and poor, educated or not. Below are some names given to epilepsy in Africa, in alphabetical order. Please note that some of the names are no longer appropriate now because they label, devalue and stigmatise.

1. Akwukwu na-adọ - Igbo - Nigeria
2. Bolwetši bja go wa - Northern Sotho - South Africa
3. Botlhokuo gowa - Setswana - South Africa
4. Khunyu - Nyanja - Zambia
5. Chipumputu - Bemba - Zambia
6. Chitutwane - Bemba - Zambia
7. Chithu cha waka - Tumbuka - Malawi
8. Danu rap - Wolof - The Gambia - Possessed by evil spirit or fallen animal
9. Motlotlwane - Setswana - Botswana
10. Dikotlo - Setswana - Botswana
11. Ensimbu - Luganda - Uganda
12. Epilepsia - Portuguese - Mozambique & Angola - Mkn sickness (Mozambique)
13. Épilepsie - French
14. Epilepsie - Afrikaans - South Africa
15. Epilepsy - English
16. Igciri - Kinyarwanda - Rwanda - Working upside down abnormal brain
17. Isithuthwane - Zulu - South Africa
18. Sokuwa - Zulu - South Africa
19. Izithuthwane - Ndebele - Zimbabwe -
20. Izifafa - Ndebele - Zimbabwe - A disease of fainting or dying
21. Kasuntu - Tonga - Zambia
22. Khunyu/Matenda okugwa/Chifufu - Chichewa - Malawi
23. Kifafa - Katanga - DRC
24. Kifafa - Swahili - Kenya & Tanzania
25. Kifutu - Balubakat - DRC
26. Kihona - Hona/Manono - DRC
27. Kissinkiri - Moré - Burkina Faso
28. Koukonbolo - Gourounsi Réo - Burkina Faso
29. Krikriisien - Dioula /Bobo - Burkina Faso
30. Kukuxhuzula - Isixhosa - South Africa
31. Maladi ya denke - Bas - Congo/DRC
32. Mavague ya weti - Xangana - Mozambique
33. Ndulme - Luo - Kenya
34. Njirijiri - Nyanja - Zambia
35. Njirinjiri - CiSena - Mozambique
36. Nthenda yakugua - Nyungue/Nyanja - Mozambique
37. Zvipusha - Shona - Zimbabwe - Contagious disease
38. Pfari - Shona - Zimbabwe - Jerking
39. Nhuta - Shona - Zimbabwe - Shaking disease
40. Tsviyo - Shona - Zimbabwe - Whistling disease
41. Kudonha - Shona - Zimbabwe - Falling disease
42. Kufaifa/Zvifaifa - Shona - Zimbabwe - A disease of dying/fainting
43. Sethwathwa - South Sotho/Sesotho - South Africa
44. Sifo sekuwa - Swaziland
45. Wa'ah - Yemba - Cameroon
46. Warapa - Yoruba - Nigeria
47. Wayoo - Mandinka - The Gambia
48. Yemīt'ili/ የሚገልጽ - Amharic - Ethiopia
49. داء الصرع/صرع /مرض السقوط ي /مرض كهربائية الدماغ - Arabic
50. Msetti - Morocco - Crazy
51. Maskoune/Fihleriah - Morocco - Obsessed by an evil spirit
52. صرع - Morocco -
53. ايبلبسيا - Arabic - Brain electrical shock
54. توقف سلوك - Arabic - Behavioral arrest
55. مرض السقوط - Arabic - Falling disease
56. Intandara, Burundi - Generalised contractures
57. Adingbe - Fon, Benin
58. Mblisimbaama - Gulmancema - Burkina Faso

Epilepsy is not contagious

NAMING AND CALLING EPILEPSY WHAT IT IS REDUCES STIGMA AND INCREASES ACCEPTANCE.

The Epilepsy Alliance Africa (EAA) Recommends Using Names in Green Area.

acceptance

Use names associated with the brain, they reduce stigma

Some names about symptoms like falling, 'fitting' & forgetting may increase stigma

Names associated with mental illness or breakdown increase stigma

Do not use names associated with spiritual/religious/cultural beliefs e.g. names from Holy books highly increase stigma

Yes, epilepsy is a condition of the brain. It is not contagious. It is largely manageable with medication and other modalities.

stigma

