

Epilepsy Surgery



Shifteh Sattar, MD
Maria Augusta Montenegro, MD, PhD

EPILEPSY SURGERY

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Department of Neurosciences
Division of Pediatric Neurology
Rady Children's Hospital / UCSD

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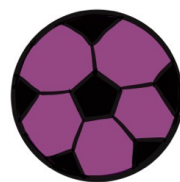
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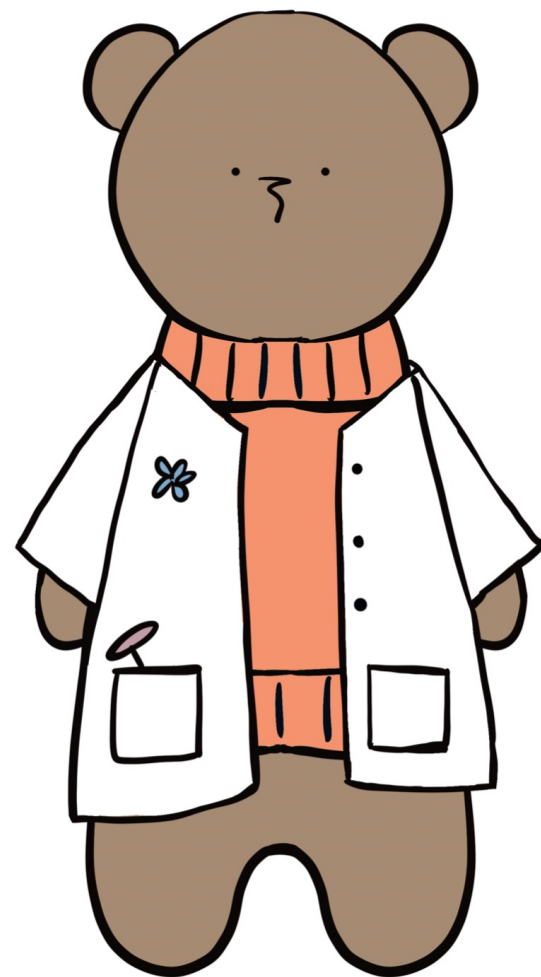


Hello! I like to play soccer and fly my kite. After school I enjoy playing with my friends.

"Hello"



One day, I fell and started shaking. I didn't remember anything. My mom took me to the doctor. She was really nice, and she called herself a brain doctor. She told me I have epilepsy.



Epilepsy is a condition where a person has seizures and needs medication to control it. Seizures aren't the same for everyone. Some shake, some stare, and sometimes people can say or do weird things during a seizure.



The brain doctor gave me a medicine to control my seizures.

My seizures were controlled for a while, but then I started to have more seizures. I took all my medicine, but I still had seizures.

Some patients still have seizures despite trying more than two medications. It is called drug-resistant epilepsy.

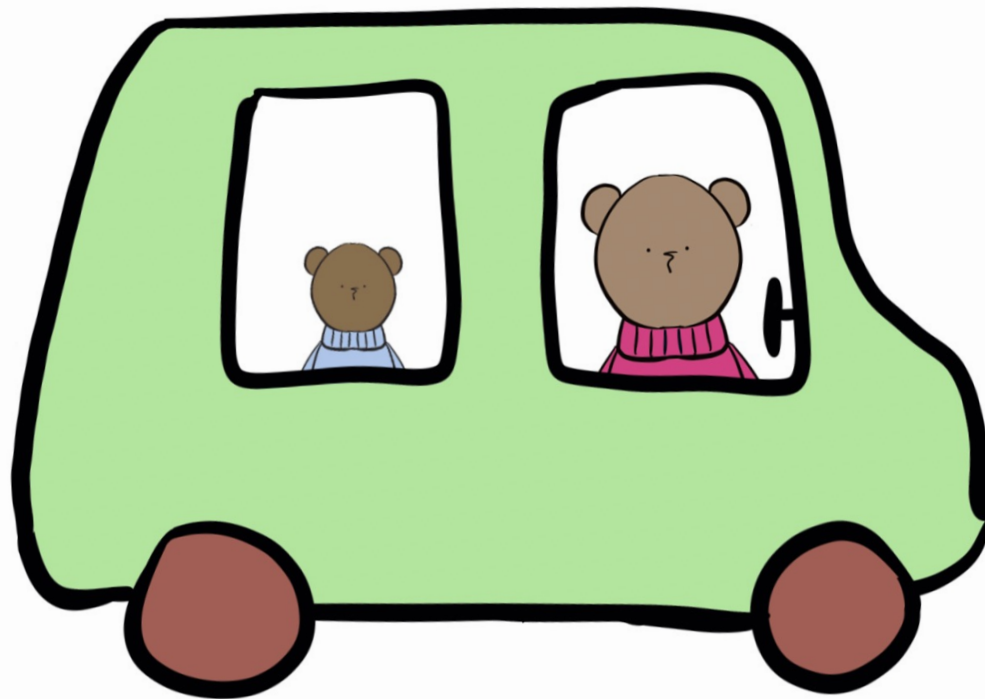


For kids that have bad seizures the brain doctor may do more tests to find out why. She may also try different things to help stop seizures like change your eating habits.

"What options do we have?"

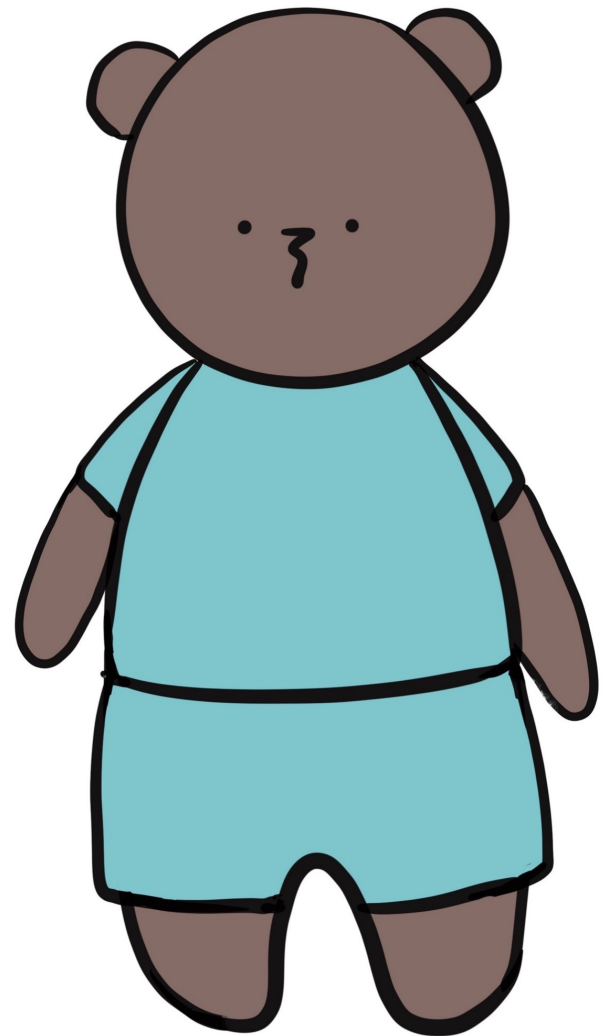


Today we are going to the hospital to find out if I can have surgery for my seizures. Surgery for seizures has helped a lot of kids. Yes, that's right! Sometimes surgery can help to control seizures. But it isn't for everyone, so now I am going to do tests to see if it is good for me.

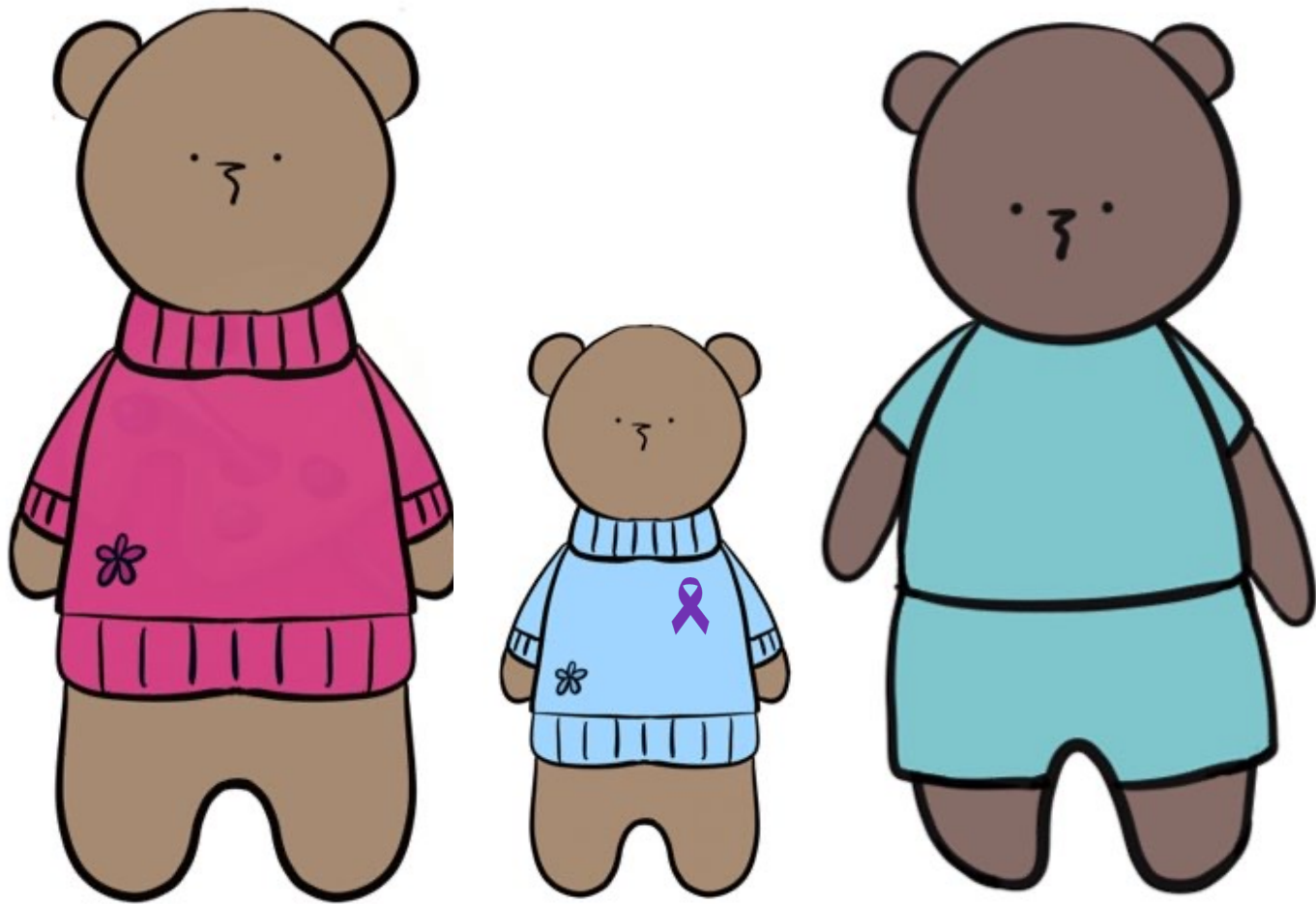


At the hospital, there was a very nice doctor.
She listened to my heart and checked my
belly. Then she hit my knee with a little
hammer. It didn't hurt!

It was actually
funny because
when she hit my
knee, my leg kicked
the air.



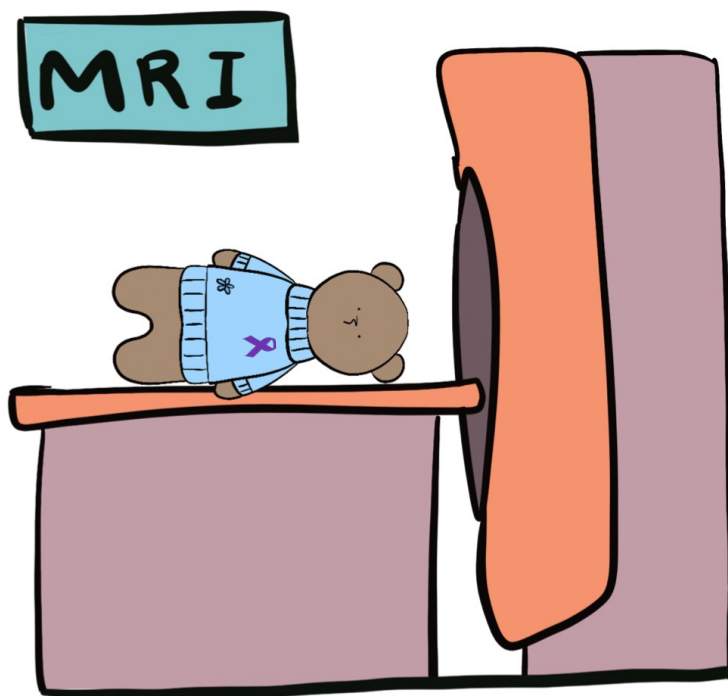
When she finished examining me, she said:
"We need to do some tests to find out
if surgery can help control your seizures"



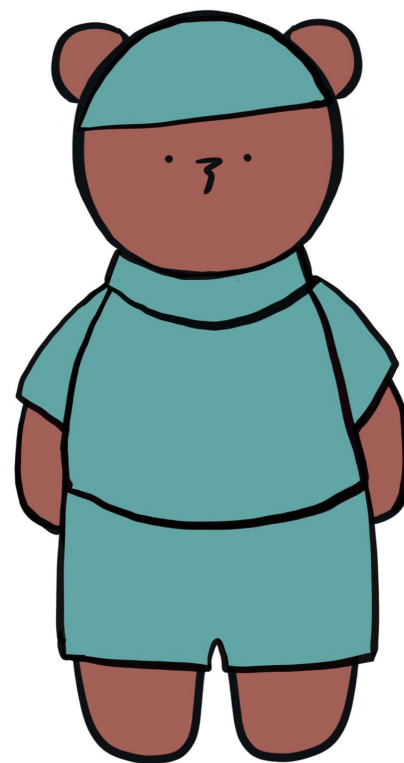
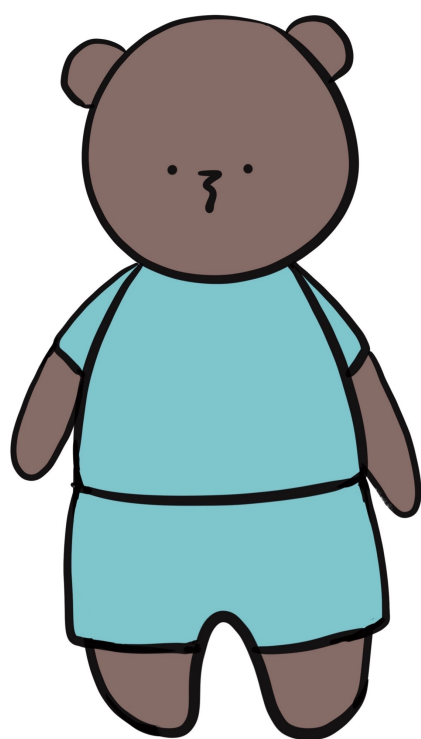
My brain doctor brought me into the hospital to get something called a video-EEG. When you get a video-EEG they put these wires on your head, and it does not hurt at all.



The brain doctor sent me to get an MRI. An MRI is like a big giant camera. They had me lay down on a bed and put me through this large round tube that is shaped like a donut. It took pictures of my brain. It did not hurt, and I got to watch a cartoon.

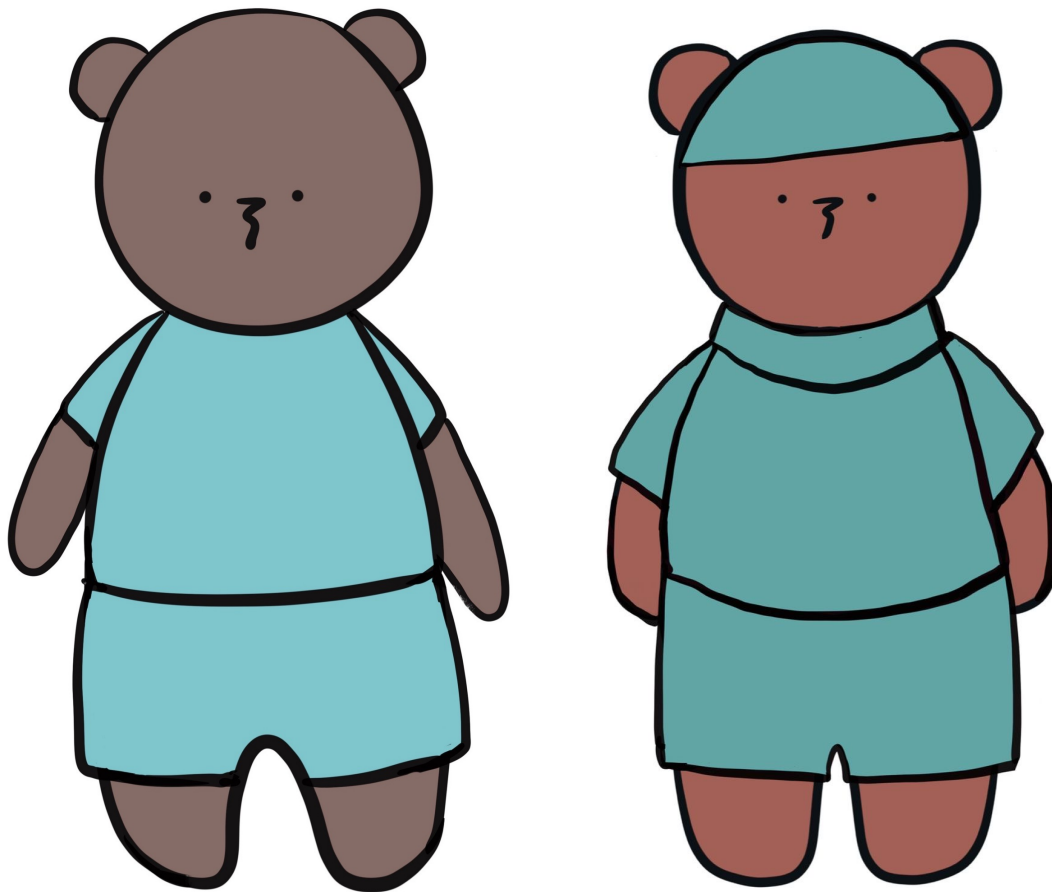


After all the tests were done my brain doctors all sat down and looked at it to see if I can have surgery for my seizures. Surgery can stop all seizures for some kids so I really hope I can do it.

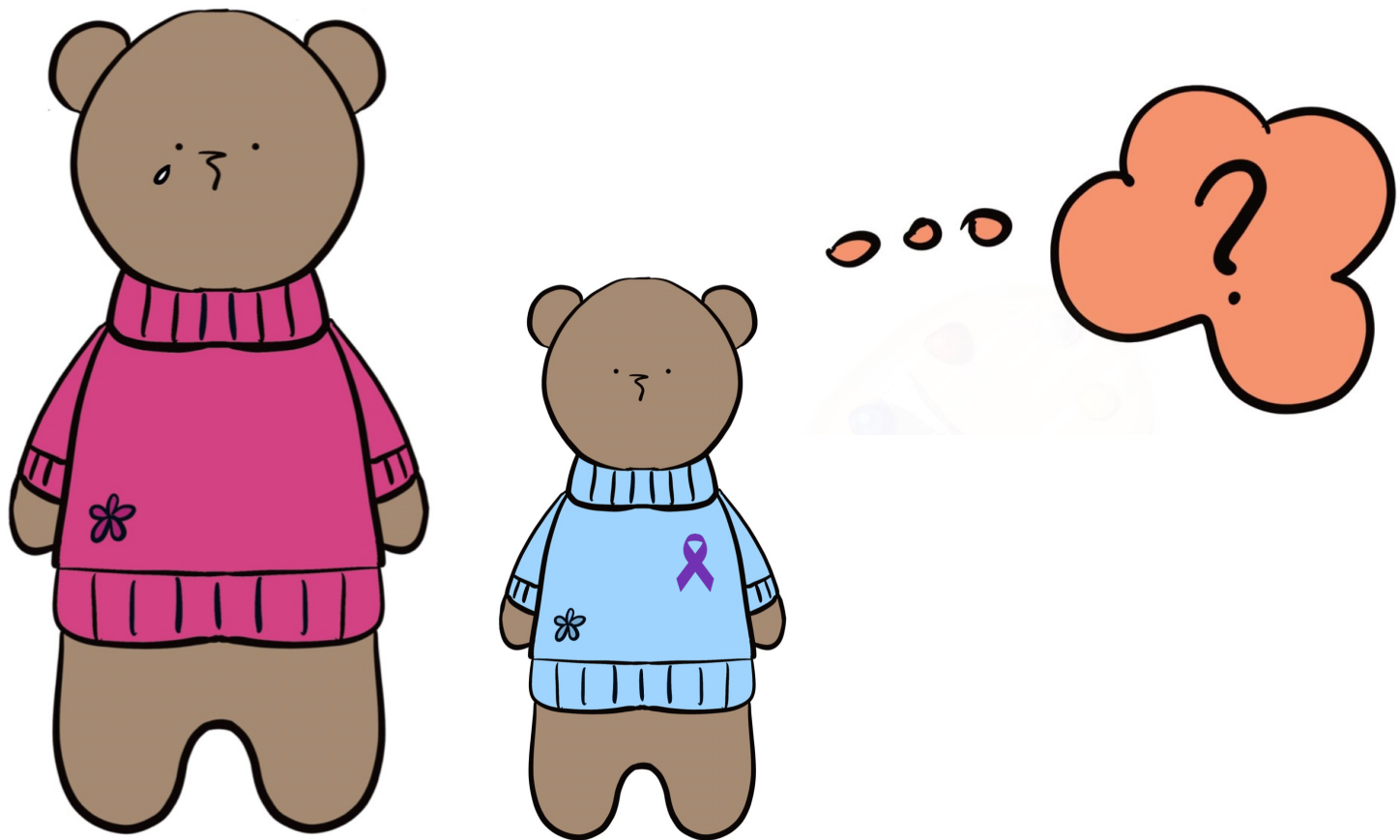


When they finished talking they said:
"Good news! Surgery can help control your
seizures"

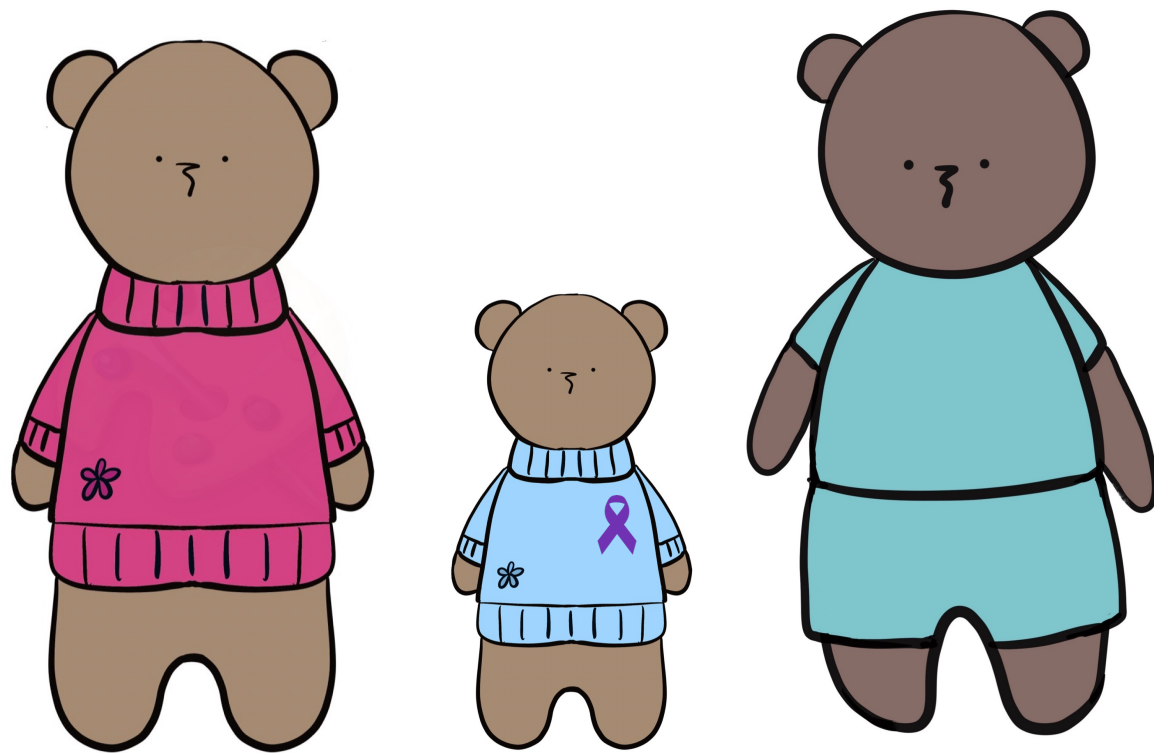
"Good news!"



In the beginning, we were scared. Is the surgery going to hurt? Are they going to shave my head? Do I have to sleep at the hospital many days?



Then the doctors explained that I will be sleeping during the surgery (so I am not going to feel any pain), only a very small part of my hair will be cut, and after about one week I can go home.

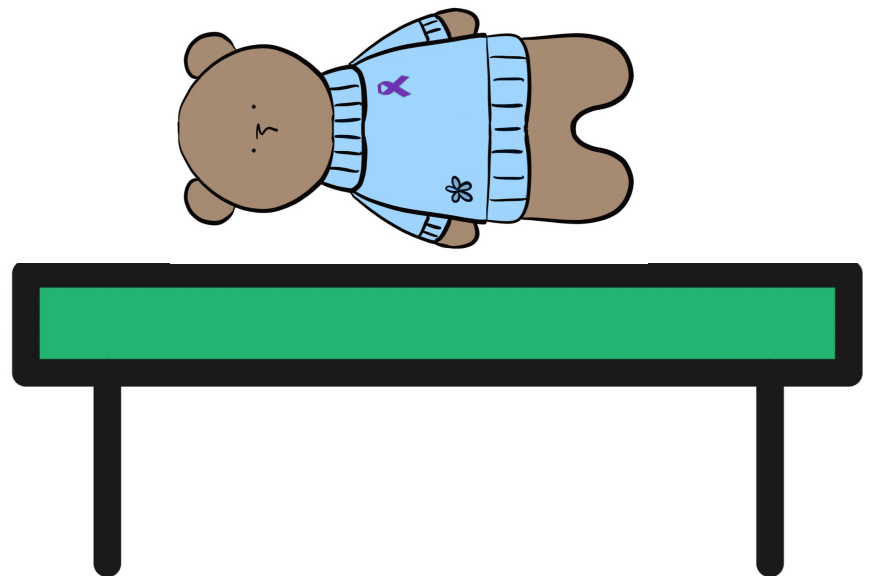
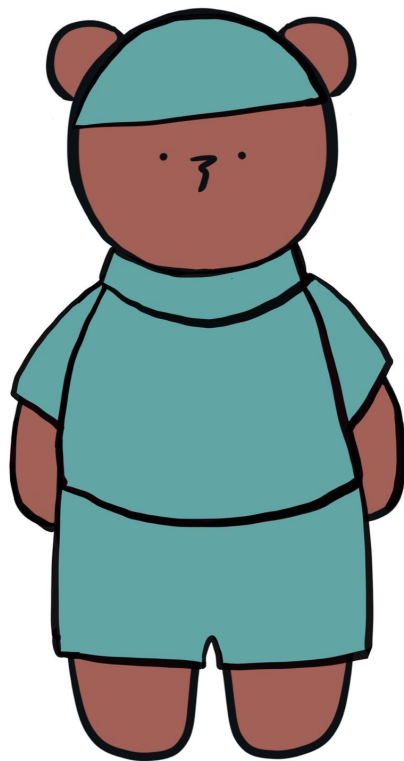


My head will get a scar, but my hair will cover most of it.

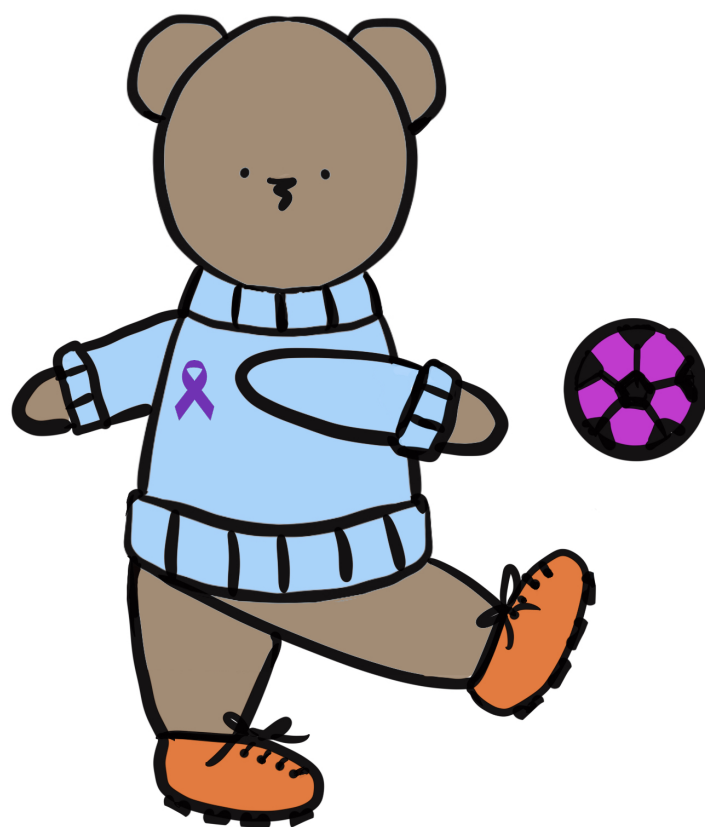


Many children have epilepsy and get surgery to help their seizures.

There are several types of surgeries for seizures. Even though surgery sounds scary, it can help me a lot.



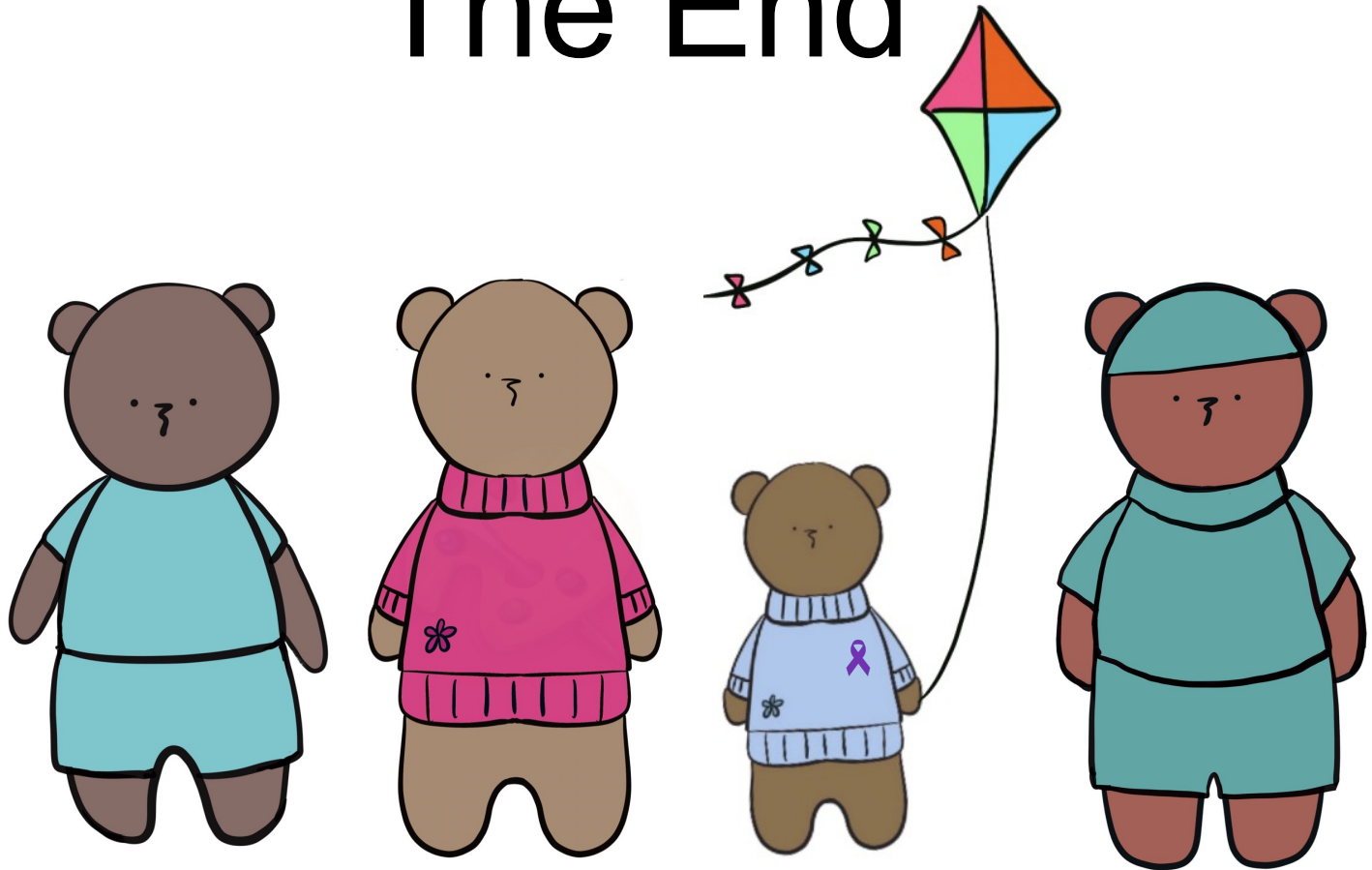
When I get surgery for my seizures, I am hoping to play soccer and fly a kite with my friends without being scared to have a seizure.



If I don't have any seizures after surgery, my brain doctor may stop my medicine too. That would make me really happy.



The End



Rady
Children's
Hospital
San Diego



