



Speaking from Experience

Epilepsy Surgery

Transcript for chapter 1 of 12: Diagnosis

Maree, 11 months after grid monitoring and surgery, and husband Rob: I was 12. The first seizure I had was when I was at school, actually. During the middle of the class and I just remember hearing the teacher speaking in the background and hearing background noise but not being able to understand what was being said at the time. I sort of felt like I was in a bit of a daydream.

Mark, 7 years after surgery: It was 1985 and I was 32 when I was away on a country trip for my business. And I had a seizure in the restaurant. So the first thing I knew, I was in hospital.

Barry, 2 years after surgery: I was about age four. My parents had me taken to Melbourne for EEG tests and came back through my local doctor. My parents both broke me the news that I'd have to take medication for the rest of my life.

Sarah, 3 months after surgery, and mother Frances: I found out that Sarah had epilepsy at the age of four. She just went in like a little trance, maybe for a few seconds. And I chose to, I just thought, I didn't really know what it was and I ignored it. But when it started happening a bit more frequently, then I went and saw the doctor.

Denise and Frank's son, Luc, had surgery 1 year ago: Luc was about four and a half when we first found out that he had epilepsy. And at first we thought that he was just having stomach cramps because he'd sort of hunch over like this [hunches over]. And we thought that it was some pain in the stomach or something.

Louise, 9 months after surgery: I was sitting in my high chair and all of a sudden mum started to notice my arms sort of going over the sides of the high chair.

Denise and Frank: The neurosurgeon said he'd had this abnormal area of his brain since from his time in the womb. But as far as we were concerned, he was totally normal until he was four and a half.

Louise: I had another seizure about three months later and we went back to hospital again and the paediatrician just said, "It's epilepsy. Got any questions?"