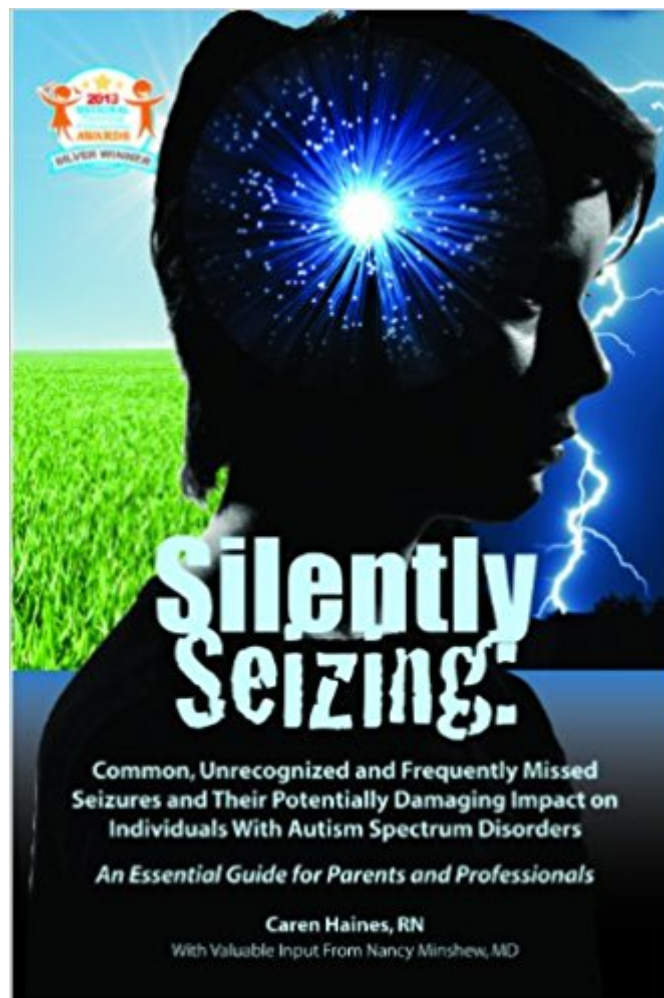




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Silently Seizing: Common, Unrecognized, And Frequently Missed Seizures And Their Potentially Damaging Impact On Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorders





Synopsis

Up to 50% of all children diagnosed with with autism have undiagnosed seizure disorders, to a great extent because they are difficult to diagnose and due to a lack of awareness and understanding. Caren Haines, with renowned behavioral child neurologist Nancy Minshew, MD, is determined to change that. At age two, author Caren Haines' son was diagnosed with autism. By the time he was 12, his diagnosis didn't account for his uncontrollable aggression, the acrid smells that lingered in his mind and the odd voices that screamed at him from inside his head. By the time he was 18, his out-of-control behavior mirrored a mood disorder with psychotic features. *Silently Seizing* begins with a close-up look at this family's journey and examines a disorder that cannot always be identified in a clinical setting. Intersecting at two medical sub-specialties, neurology and psychiatry, the child who has autism and partial seizures is at a serious disadvantage. By inadvertently allowing children's brains to "silently seize," we are robbing children of their ability to function normally. When treated early with anti-seizure medications, many children show amazing gains in expressive language and comprehension. Many begin to speak and learn as many troubling behaviors begin to disappear. Even more important, many children lose their diagnosis of autism. Backed by up-to-the-minute research, this must-read book includes sections on what autism is, the seizure-autism connection, tips for diagnosing and treating seizures, as well as how to better understand children's behavior.

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Customer Reviews

As a board-certified behavior analyst who works with children with autism as well as being a mother to a teen with autism and a recently diagnosed seizure disorder, Caren Haine's book has been my guide book both in working with my students and getting my son diagnosed. The information has enabled me to provide additional supports to my students and my son in an area in which the medical community is far behind the cutting-edge research Caren shares. The format is very accessible breaking down a complex topic into very comprehensible parts using understandable language. --Tricia Polchowski, MEd, board-certified behavior analyst

Just as we parents are getting comfortable with the diagnosis of autism comes the fear of seizures. And sometimes it arrives at a time when puberty is starting to change what little consistency and control we had over this turbulent disorder in our child. Could the behaviors that we see be attributable to seizure activity? How will we know and what can we as parents do about it? This book, *Silently Seizing*, answers those questions and more. This is the 'go-to' guide every parent needs to read, to be referred to again and again. The family stories that are sprinkled throughout are both heart-wrenching and encouraging to read, especially for fellow parents. I refer to this book often when speaking to groups and consulting with parents and professionals. --Sally J. Colletti, BSW

Silently Seizing introduces the complex topic of seizures and autism in a manner that parents can understand. After reading this book, parents will be able to glimpse into their child's confusing world, and have yet another tool to help the child escape from it. I find addressing EEG changes very helpful in caring for children with autism in my office, and hope this book will encourage families and doctors to begin the journey themselves. --Ali Carine, DO, FAAP, C-OMM/NMM

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Caren Haines is the mother of a 24-year-old son diagnosed with autism as a young child. As a registered nurse, Caren relied upon her nurse's training to assist her in deciphering the origins of many of her son's perplexing behaviors. Based on knowledge gained from years of intensive research she compiled for this book; as well as, information provided by top researchers in the field of autism, Caren is helping families become free from the debilitating symptoms of silent seizures and psychosis. She is also co-author of a children's book, *Georgie, The Flying Dog*, which explores the concept of unconditional love and acceptance of our differences.

I have gone misdiagnosed for years! I went to see a neurologist and I'm on the right medication for my 'Silent Seizures'. Feel so much better and I'm much more productive. My only problem with this book is that the stories become more and more dramatic so quickly. More space should have been allotted for the more subtle cases because this book can scare those who have these seizures unnecessarily and relatives who read the book hoping for a clearer understanding can begin to think the worst is coming. Four stars for the help, but for those who have these seizures calm down and let the medical community be your guide. The younger neurologists understand these seizures and there are many new medications available. Go for it. Get the help you need and deserve!

I read this book while sitting by my son's bedside in the hospital, as he slept the day after his 2nd tonic-clonic seizure. I was very sad, as this meant not only that he did have some kind of seizure disorder (something I had read about when he was diagnosed at five years old with high functioning autism, but had dismissed as not being an issue we would have to deal with), but that he would have to relinquish his newly acquired driver's license (for six months, if he is seizure free). It was my first book to read, and as I realized that we were getting off relatively light with my son's seizure -- because the author's experience with her son was MUCH harder than ours -- I did learn what it's like to have a child on the spectrum with seizures. The information in this book is top notch. It helped to guide me through the new parts of this seizure disorder, the meds, and what to expect. I tend to go a little crazy when first faced with a situation like this... feel like nothing is ever going to get better. *Silently Seizing* helped me gain some perspective, and provided some semblance of reassurance that the future would be manageable.

as someone who has been diagnosed as asperger I found this book to be very enlightening and explained things that I did not know were related to being aspergers things like the day I got boxed in my

vision . the eye doctor did not know what it was it turned out to be seizure related I would not have known that with out reading this book.

Current statistics indicate that 1 out of 88 children are diagnosed with some form of autistic spectrum disorder. The author, Caren Haines, is the mother of a child diagnosed with autism. As an infant, Josh appeared to be developing normally. However, before he was 2 years old, she began to notice that he had occasional staring spells, his language abilities had regressed and he was "tuning out the world." He was diagnosed with autism and it was felt that his symptoms and behaviors were due to this disorder. He was treated with behavioral therapies and antipsychotic medications. In the book *Silently Seizing*, Ms. Haines describes her struggle to seek appropriate treatment for her son Josh. Her research led her to neurologists and psychiatrists who have studied temporal lobe epilepsy. A form of epilepsy that occurs deep in the temporal lobe. Seizure disorders occur frequently in those diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Temporal lobe epilepsy is difficult to diagnose using standard EEG testing, but can be diagnosed with an accurate patient history and clinical observation. Symptoms of temporal lobe epilepsy can include repetitive movements, staring episodes and episodes of rage. If these seizures can be diagnosed and treated early in childhood, there may be an improvement in the child's functional abilities. Although other disorders may also cause autism, the relationship of seizures and autism cannot be overlooked. This book includes a great deal of medical information, but is written in an easy to understand way. Parents of children with ASD will find this book quite helpful and informative. *Silently Seizing* is a well-researched and insightful book that should be required reading for pediatricians, neurologists and psychiatrists.

I cannot stress this enough, this book is my number one recommendation for any parent with a child with Autism. So many doctors are quick to ignore the role of seizures in your child's behaviour and language development and we are often left to take their word for it without having the tools to challenge this. In a short and concise way, Haines covers the signs, symptoms, and potential strategies for helping your child and provides the words for so many of us that couldn't adequately express our concerns or find someone to listen. Life changing as control of seizures is a major indicator of long-term prognosis and the ability to achieve optimal outcomes!

Probably a good book for the purposes intended. Well written, understandable; makes several extremely complicated topics approachable. Well researched, discussions supported by science.

Likely an excellent resource if you have an autistic child and are searching for answers, additional treatment options.

I have a son with Epilepsy. Im lucky that my son doesnt have alot of the issues that the author'sson has had to go through. I do agree with the author that you have to find the right dose(s) to helpcontrol the seizures AND the behavior's that sometimes goes along with having a seizure disorder.The authors son was Austistic with a seizure disorder and so it was more of a different story for my ownson as he has the seizure disorder and perhaps a mild version of Austism. Either way tho the book was good read.

The general lack of awareness of medical professionals, pediatrician's in particular is appalling. Parents owe it to their kids to be better educated on what's out there. Wish I'd read this few years ago! Would've let me appreciate and understand what my son was going through and demand more of his doctors.

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