

60 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. Bolwetsi 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. Igicuri - 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 – Chichewa – Malawi
23. Chifufu – Chichewa - Malawi
24. Kifafa – Katanga - DRC
25. Kifafa- Swahili - Kenya & Tanzania
26. Kifutu – Balubakat – DRC
27. Kihona - Hona/Manono - DRC
28. Kissinkiri – Moré - Burkina Faso
29. Koukonbolo - Gourounsi Réo - Burkina Faso
30. Krikriessen - Dioula /Bobo - Burkina Faso
31. Kukuxhuzula - Isixhosa - South Africa
32. Maladi ya denke - Bas - Congo/DRC
33. Mavague ya weti – Xangana – Mozambique
34. Ndulme – Luo – Kenya
35. Njirijiri - Nyanja - Zambia
36. Njirinjiri – CiSena – Mozambique
37. Nthenda yakugua - Nyungue/Nyanja – Mozambique
38. Zvipusha – Shona – Zimbabwe – Contagious disease
39. Pfari – Shona – Zimbabwe – Jerking
40. Nhuta – Shona – Zimbabwe – Shaking disease
41. Tsviyo – Shona – Zimbabwe – Whistling disease
42. Kudonha – Shona – Zimbabwe – Falling disease
43. Kufaifa/Zvifaifa – Shona – Zimbabwe – A disease of dying/fainting
44. Sethwathwa - South Sotho/Sesotho - South Africa
45. Sifo sekuwa - Swaziland
46. Wa’ah – Yemba - Cameroon
47. Warapa - Yoruba - Nigeria
48. Wayoo – Mandinka - The Gambia
49. Yemīt’ili/ የሜጥሊ - Amharic - Ethiopia
50. مرض كهربائية الدماغ - Arabic - Brain electrical shock
51. الصرع سابقا - Arabic - Brain electrical shock
52. Msetti– Morocco – Crazy
53. Maskoune/Fihleriah – Morocco - Obsessed by an evil spirit
54. صرع – Morocco
55. ايبليسيا – Arabic - Brain electrical shock
56. توقف سلوك - Arabic - Behavioral arrest
57. مرض السقوط – Arabic - Falling disease
58. Intandara, Burundi – Generalised contractures
59. Adingbe – Fon, Benin
60. Mblisimbaama - Gulmancema - Burkina Faso

Epilepsy is not contagious