

## Epilepsy Stigma Scale

The Parent Stigma Scale developed by Austin (Austin, Dunn, Huster, & Rose, 1998) was modified with permission for use to measure stigma in adults. The 5-item scale was expanded to 10 items that together assess the degree to which a person believes that epilepsy is perceived as negative and interferes with relationships with others. Each item is rated on a 7-point scale from 1 strongly disagree to 7 strongly agree. Austin originally developed the scale for use with parents of children who have epilepsy. The wording of items was modified slightly so that the items related to adults with epilepsy themselves. Austin et al. (1998) assessed the scale for content validity and internal consistency reliability ( $\alpha = .78$ ). As evidence for validity, the scale correlates in the predicted direction with parent need for information, information needs, concerns, and mood (J. Austin, personal communication, June, 1998). The alpha coefficient for the responses of the participants in the current study was .91.

Austin, J., Dunn, D., Huster, G., Rose, D. (1998). Development of scales to measure psychological care needs of children with seizures and their parents. Journal of Neuroscience Nursing, 30: 155-160.

DiIorio, C., Shafer, P., Letz, R., Henry, T., Schomer, D., Yeager, K. (June, 2003). The association of stigma with self-management and perceptions of health care among adults with epilepsy. Epilepsy and Behavior, 4(3), 259-267.

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Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following 10 statements.

	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	MODERATELY DISAGREE	SLIGHTLY NOR AGREE	NEITHER DISAGREE AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	MODERATELY AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
1. People who know that I have a seizure condition treat me differently.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2. It really doesn't matter what I say to people about my seizure condition, they usually have their minds made up.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3. I always have to prove myself because of the seizure condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4. Because of my seizure condition, I have problems developing intimate relationships.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5. In many people's minds, a seizure condition attaches a stigma or label to me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6. I feel different from other adults because of my seizure condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7. I feel embarrassed about my seizure condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8. I feel ashamed to tell others about my seizure condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
9. I feel others are uncomfortable with me because of my seizure condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
10. I feel others would prefer not to be with me because of my seizure condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	