

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Landau-Kleffner Syndrome

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Source

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). [Landau-Kleffner Syndrome Information Page](#).

Landau-Kleffner syndrome (LKS) is a rare, childhood neurological disorder characterized by the sudden or gradual development of aphasia (the inability to understand or express language) and an abnormal electro-encephalogram (EEG). Specifically, the EEG typically shows an increase to nearly continuous abnormal brain activity firing (spikes) during sleep that scientists believe impair memory formation. LKS affects the parts of the brain that control comprehension and speech, typically affecting understanding rather than expression.

The disorder usually occurs in children between the ages of 5 and 7 years. Typically, children with LKS develop normally but then lose their language skills for no apparent reason. While many of the affected individuals have seizures, some do not. The disorder can be difficult to diagnose and may be misdiagnosed and should be recognized as different from the more common causes of autism, pervasive developmental disorder, hearing impairment, learning disability, auditory/verbal processing disorder, attention deficit disorder, childhood schizophrenia, or emotional/behavioral problems.