Risk factors are factors that increase the possibility of getting a condition. The risk factors for epilepsy are:

- Injury to the brain
- Head injury (trauma) / birth injury
- Cerebral malformation
- Stroke
- Vasculitis – e.g. Systemic Lupus erythematosus
- Tumour (Primary or metastatic)
- Conditions that might deprive the brain of oxygen – for example near drowning.
- Infective causes: e.g. – meningitis, encephalitis, febrile convulsions etc.
- Metabolic conditions like hypoxia, low blood sugar, low or high salt, low magnesium or calcium etc.

Other factors:
- Exposure to lead, carbon mono oxide or other environmental toxins
- Overdose or withdrawal or certain medications
- Alcoholism

Different risk factors are common in specific age groups.