

SEIZURE IDENTIFICATION AND FIRST AID

TYPE OF SEIZURE	CHARACTERISTICS	FIRST AID
Generalized tonic / clonic (used to be called grand mal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - convulsive - sudden hoarse cry - fall - unconscious - rigid body initially - muscular jerks - shallow breathing that may stop momentarily - bluish skin - lasts a couple of minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keep calm - let the seizure run its course - ease the person to the floor - loosen clothing - remove objects in the immediate area that may harm or injure the person - turn the person on their side so that saliva can flow from the mouth - check for medic alert identification - when the person regains consciousness and the seizure ends help them become reoriented - if a seizure lasts more than 6-10 minutes or if they occur repeatedly, call an ambulance <p>REMEMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do not put anything in the person's mouth - do not try to restrain the person - chart prior, duration & post seizure information
Absence (used to be called petit mal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-convulsive - most common in children - blank stare - few seconds in duration - unaware of surroundings - quick return to awareness - may be accompanied by rapid blinking and/or chewing movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none necessary - mention to parents - chart prior, duration & post seizure information
Simple Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-convulsive - jerking in one area of body - awake and aware but can't stop it - may spread to another area of body - can become a convulsive seizure - may experience distorted senses i.e. seeing, hearing, smelling, seeing things that aren't there 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none necessary unless it becomes convulsive - provide reassurance and emotional support - chart prior, duration & post seizure information
Complex Partial (sometimes called psychomotor / temporal lobe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unaware of surroundings but conscious - generally starts with a blank stare - chewing motion - random activity such as picking at clothing or other objects - actions appear with each seizure - lasts a few minutes - post seizure period is one of confusion and can be lengthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - speak calmly - explain to others what is happening - guide away from hazards - do NOT try to restrain - stay with the person until complete awareness returns - offer help getting home - chart prior, duration & post seizure information
Atonic (sometimes called drop attacks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sudden collapse and fall, usually forward - recovery is usually regained within 1 minute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none needed unless individual was hurt during the fall - chart prior, duration & post seizure information
Myoclonic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sudden and brief - massive muscle jerks - may involve parts of, or the whole body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none needed - chart prior, duration & post seizure information
Infantile Spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quick and sudden - usually in children aged 3 months to 2 years - head moves forward and down - arms flex forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none - report to doctor - chart prior, duration & post seizure information