Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services

Seizure

History
- Reported or witnessed seizure
- Previous seizure history
- Medical alert tag
- Seizure medications
- History of trauma
- History of diabetes
- History of pregnancy
- Time of seizure onset
- Document number of seizures
- Alcohol use, abuse, or abrupt cessation
- Fever

Signs and Symptoms
- Altered mental status
- Sleepiness
- Incontinence
- Observed seizure activity
- Evidence of trauma
- Unconscious
- Incontinence

Differential
- Head trauma
- Metabolic, hepatic or renal failure
- Tumor
- Hypoxia
- Electrolyte abnormality
- Drugs or medication non-compliance
- Infection or sepsis
- Alcohol withdrawal
- Eclampsia
- Stroke
- Hyperthermia
- Hypoglycemia

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**Effective Jan. 2020**

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**History**
- Loosen any constrictive clothing and protect airway
- Spinal immobilization procedure if indicated
- Consider, IV/O
- Cardiac monitor
- If patient begins seizing in the presence of EMS and treatment is indicated, give Midazolam 5mg IV/IM/IO/IN
  - May repeat every 3 to 5 minutes for continued seizure activity
  - Maximum 10mg

**Diabetic TG if indicated**

**If patient is seizing upon EMS arrival**
- Give Midazolam 5mg IM/IN; do not wait to obtain IV or IO access
- May repeat every 3 to 5 minutes for continued seizure activity
- Maximum 10mg

**Blood glucose analysis**

**Spinal immobilization procedure if indicated**

**If patient is seizing upon EMS arrival**
- Give Midazolam 5mg IM/IN; do not wait to obtain IV or IO access
- May repeat every 3 to 5 minutes for continued seizure activity
- Maximum 10mg

**Consider IV/O procedure**

**Spinal immobilization procedure if indicated**

**Consider**
- Altered Mental Status TG if indicated
- OR if postictal state
- Monitor and reassess

**Notify receiving facility. Contact Base Hospital for medical direction, as needed.**

**Midazolam**
- Contact Base Hospital Physician for additional order

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**Status Epilepticus?**
- Yes
- No

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**Awake, alert normal mental status?**
- Yes
- No

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**Active seizing?**
- Yes
- No

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**No**

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**Yes**

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**Blood glucose analysis**

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**Spinal immobilization procedure if indicated**

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**Consider**
- Midazolam 5mg IM/IN

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**E E**

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**P P**

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**MD**
PEARLS

- Midazolam 5-10mg IM is effective in the termination of seizures. Do not delay IM administration to obtain IV or IO access in an actively seizing patient.
- For a seizure that begins in the presence of EMS, if the patient was previously conscious, alert and oriented, take the time to assess and protect the patient and providers and CONSIDER THE CAUSE. The seizure may stop, especially in patients who have prior history of self-limiting seizures. However, do not hesitate to treat recurrent or prolonged (> 1 minute) seizure activity.
- Limit IN administrations to ½ dose in each nare.
- Status Epilepticus is defined as two or more successive seizures without a period of consciousness or recovery, or one prolonged seizure lasting longer than 5 minutes. This is a true emergency requiring rapid airway control, treatment, and transport.
- Grand Mal seizures (generalized) are associated with a loss of consciousness, incontinence, and oral trauma.
- Focal seizures (Petit Mal) affect only a part of the body and are not associated with a loss of consciousness.
- Be prepared for airway problems and continued seizures.
- Assess the possibility of occult trauma and substance abuse.
- Be prepared to assist ventilations or manage the airway, especially if Midazolam is used.