

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

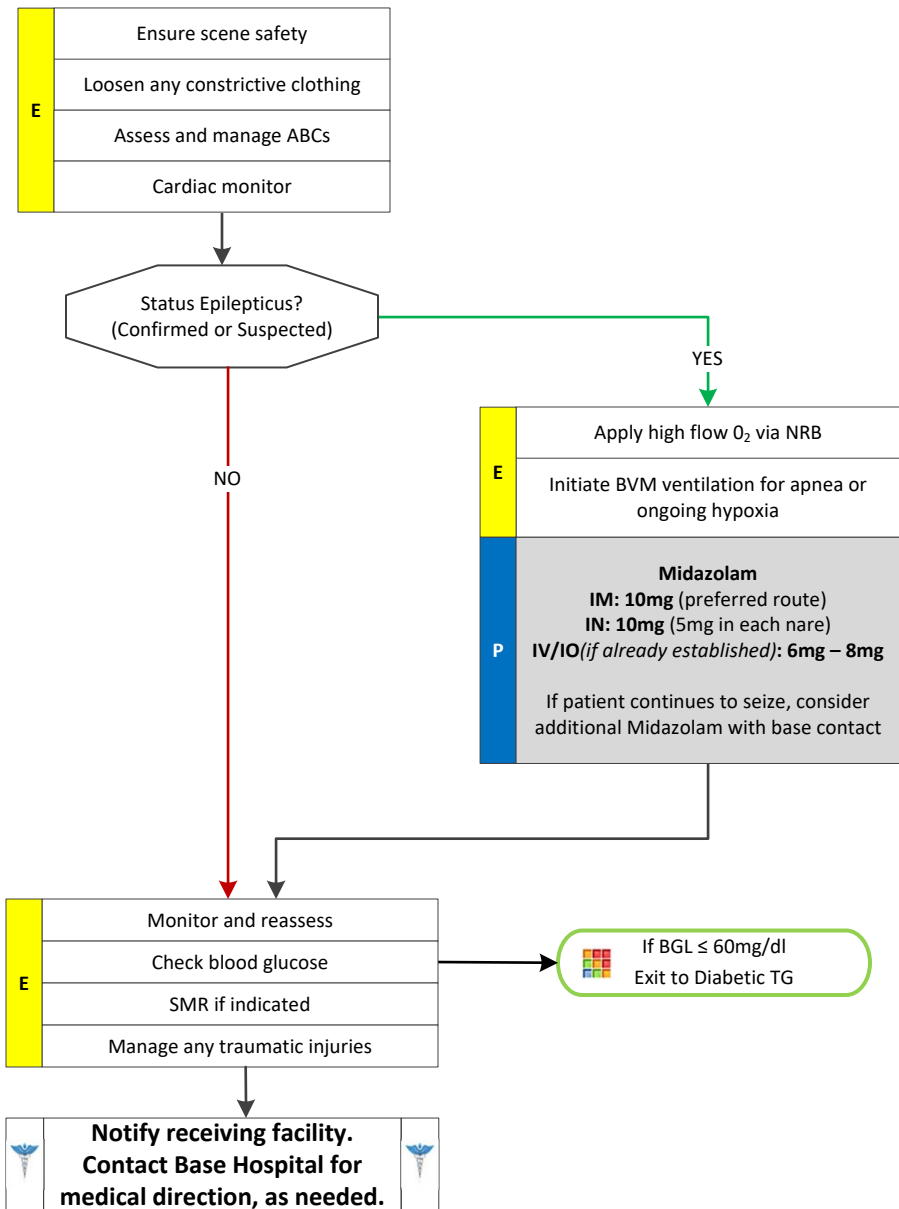
Differential

- 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

Status Epilepticus

- 2 or more seizures in ≤ 5 minutes
Or
- Any seizure lasting > 5 minutes

If duration cannot be confirmed, patient should be assumed to be in status if actively seizing when you arrived.



Seizure

Pearls

- Status Epilepticus is defined as two or more seizures without a period of consciousness or recovery, or one prolonged seizure lasting longer than 5 minutes. If patient is seizing upon EMS arrival this is likely status epilepticus. This is a true emergency requiring rapid airway control, treatment, and transport.
- Midazolam 10mg IM is effective in the termination of status epileptic. Do not delay IM administration to obtain IV or IO access in an actively seizing patient.
- Limit IN administrations to ½ dose in each nare.
- Be prepared to assist ventilations or manage the airway, especially if Midazolam is used.
- 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 (> 5 minute) seizure activity.
- Assess the possibility of occult trauma and substance abuse.
- 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.

