Seizure assessment and seizure management guidelines.

Ann Connolly
Advanced Nurse Practitioner Epilepsy (childhood), National Children’s Hospital, Tallaght, RANP, RNP, RCN, RNID
Cork university Hospital 12th April 2016
Definition of epilepsy

- (1) At least two unprovoked seizures occurring more than 24 hours apart
- (2) One unprovoked seizure & a probability of further seizures similar to the general reoccurrence rate (60%) after 2 unprovoked seizures, occurring over the next ten years.
- (3) Diagnosis of an epilepsy syndrome (Fisher et al. 2014)
Definition of resolved epilepsy/outgrown Epilepsy

Epilepsy is defined as resolved in those who are considered to have an age dependant epilepsy syndrome and who now are past the eligible age.

Those who are ten years seizure free who have been off meds for at least five years.

These persons can still not get a pilot licence or join military forces in most countries.
Reasons that your seizure assessment & correct recording is so important.

- Incorrect diagnosis can lead to:
  - Inappropriate diagnosis
  - Inappropriate medications
  - Risk of injury or even death due to missing out on appropriate treatment (cardiac, NEAD).
  - Employment opportunities (short term & long term)
  - Importance of correct diagnosis of seizure type i.e Focal seizures that masquerade as generalised seizures. Absence’s that are described as complex partial seizures or vice versa.
  - Events that mimic epilepsy
1. What was your child doing at the time - sleeping, waking, playing etc?
2. What alerted you to the seizure - cry, fall, stare, head turn etc?
3. Did your child talk or perform actions during the seizure?
4. Which parts of the body were affected?
5. Was one side affected more than the other?
6. Did the body stiffen, jerk or twitch?
7. Were there any eye changes - moving right/left, rolling, blinking, pupils dilated etc?
8. Was your child aware during the event?
Epilepsy Ireland - new beginnings checklist

9. Did your child’s skin colour change - pale, flushed, blue?
10. Did breathing change?
11. Did your child wet/soil themselves?
12. Did your child vomit?
13. Were there any injuries?
14. How did your child behave after the seizure - alert, drowsy, confused?
15. Did your child remember any ‘funny feelings’ before the seizure started?
16. How long did seizure activity last?
17. How long did it take your child to return to normal activity?
Video
Take home message......

Describe......

Describe......

Describe......
Guideline for acute seizure management – national clinical care programme.

- NASH
- NICE
- SIGN
- National care programme SOP
- National working group care plan Emergency medicine regulations

= Epilepsy clinical care programme - guideline development group for acute seizure management – NCEC
Status protocol

- Benzodiazepine (M2, Lorazepam, Diazepam)
- Phenytoin
- AED (IV Valproate, IV Levetiracetam, IV Lacosamide)
- Repeat 2nd line +/- GA.
Buccal Midazolam

- **Buccolam®**
  Liquid medication in prefilled syringes. Licenced in persons up to 18 years. 5mgs per 1ml.

- **Epistatus® liquid syrup** in a bottle with four oral syringes. No licence. 50mgs per 5mls.
Nasal Midazolam
Questions...

Thank you...