

SEIZURE

FAST FACTS FOR PARENTS

The more you know

- » Many events look like seizures, but are not. Sometimes the diagnosis of seizure cannot be made until a child has experienced a few events
- » Seizures are common in children. Almost one in 20 children has a seizure at some time
- » Brief, limited seizures are not considered to cause brain damage
- » Epilepsy is another word for recurrent, unprovoked seizures. Epilepsy is the same as seizure disorder
- » Most children do not start antiepileptic drug treatment until they have had two or three seizures
- » If your child has another seizure, try to remain calm. Position the child on his or her side so that anything in the mouth can drain

out. Loosen tight clothing around the neck, but do not insert any object into the mouth. If the event does not stop spontaneously after five to 10 minutes, **call 911**

- » Children who have experienced a seizure should never be left unattended in a bath tub, hot tub, or swimming pool for even a few seconds, until a doctor lifts that restriction

When to call the doctor

Most children with seizures live normal lives. However, a seizure can sometimes be a sign of major illness or a chronic neurological problem. You should call your pediatrician or emergency services if:

- » Your child has a fever
- » Your child's seizure is not stopping

This guide may be photocopied and distributed without permission to give to your patients and their parents. Reproduction for any other purpose requires express permission of the publisher, Advanstar Communications. © 2007.