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Febrile Seizure

(aka Fits or Convulsions)

What is febrile seizure?

Fits or convulsions that happen when a child has fever. It is common between 6 months to 6 years of age.

What are the symptoms of seizure?

A child having seizures: usually passes out (loses consciousness) and has shaking of all limbs. Occasionally, child may have frothing at the mouth and incontinence (accidentally passing urine). They may also vomit and / or foam at the mouth, and their eyes may roll back. After the seizure, your child may be sleepy for up to an hour afterwards.

Occasionally, febrile seizures can last longer than 15 minutes and symptoms may only affect one area of your child's body.

These are known as complex febrile seizures. The seizure sometimes happens again within 24 hours or during the period in which your child is ill.

What causes febrile seizure?

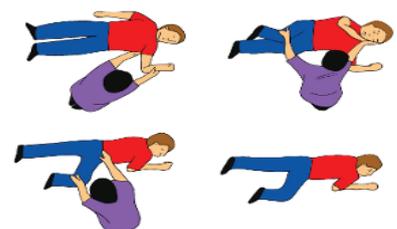
Any condition that causes fever in a child can cause febrile seizure.

Can doctor treat febrile seizures?

Most of the febrile seizures stop before you reach hospital, in some cases seizures may continue longer, in such cases your child needs to be treated with anti seizure medications. Most importantly, the cause of fever has to be treated.

What to do during febrile seizures?

- Put your child on his or her side.
- Not put anything in your child's mouth or try to stop the jerking movements.
- Keep track of how long the seizure lasts.



What should I avoid doing to my child DURING Seizure?

- Don't try to give medicines or anything by mouth.
- Don't try to keep key in child's hand or mouth.
- Don't try to pull tongue or clean saliva from the mouth.

Do I need to take my child to a hospital?

Yes, your child needs to be checked to exclude serious infections, if necessary, investigations may need to be carried out. It is important to seek advice if your child has developmental delay such as speech delay or delay in motor skills as seizures may represent a serious underlying problem.

Can this be prevented from happening again?

NO, 3 out of 10 children can have further episodes of febrile seizures. It is not recommended to prescribe regular medications because the side effects associated with these medications outweigh any risks due to seizures.

How can doctor help?

Febrile seizures are diagnosed based on description and association with fever or illness. Doctor's role is to stop seizures, if they have not stopped yet, more importantly to find the cause of fever. It is important that infection affecting the brain (encephalitis or meningitis) is excluded.

Does febrile seizure have any long-term effect on my child's development?

Intelligence, cognition and other aspects of brain development are not affected by a febrile seizure in a child with normal development.

What are the danger signs that should make me worry?

- Seizures involving only one side of the body.
- Seizures lasting beyond 5 minutes.
- More than one seizure during same illness or same day.

Febrile seizures and epilepsy

Epilepsy is a condition where a person has repeated seizures without fever. People who have never had febrile seizures have around a 1 in 100 chance to develop epilepsy.

It's estimated that children with a history of simple febrile seizures have a 1 in 50 chance of developing epilepsy in later life.

Children with a history of complex febrile seizures have a 1 in 20 chance of developing epilepsy in later life.

It is frightening to see your child having a seizure, but remember it is fairly common. The most important part is it doesn't cause any long-term harm to your child with respect to development or general health.