

January 2012

1. *When a patient enters A&E with cluster seizures, how long does the department leave the patient fitting before the decision is decided to abort the seizures?*

The aim of treatment is to abort the seizures at the earliest possible time. The Advanced life support guidelines (ALS) guidelines can be used to guide the use of drugs that can achieve this.

2. *What medication does the Trust give for aborting the seizures?*

Rectal Diazepam can be administered by Paramedics prior to arriving in A&E and if the seizures continue, intravenous Lorazepam can be given in A&E. If the seizure persists, intravenous Phenytoin can be administered and if this also proves to be unsuccessful then intravenous anaesthetic agents can be used. Prolonged seizures would also make a Doctor think about uncommon underlying causes for a seizure that will need to be diagnosed.

3. *If the Trust suspects the patient may be having Pseudo seizures, does the Trust:*
 - a. *Do a pain reactive test to see if the patient reacts to pain?*
 - b. *Does the Trust call the duty Psychiatrist down to assess the mental state of the patient?*
 - a. Pseudo-seizure can be a difficult condition to diagnose. It can present as uncontrolled seizures and these patients will have a normal neurological examination in addition to a normal MRI scan and EEG. Assessing a patient's response to pain can be part of the assessment of the Glasgow Coma Score (this is an objective measure of a person's level of consciousness). This measure is often recorded in patients who undergo a seizure.
 - b. If a firm diagnosis of Pseudo-seizure can be made then it would be appropriate to obtain a psychiatric assessment.
4. *Where there is a case of a patient presenting with unusual seizures:*
 - a. *What are the clinical signs of the seizures?*
 - b. *Does the Trust discuss with the patient that if they are unusual, that the patient needs to see Neurology?*
 - a. Pseudo-seizures can present with patterns of jerking movements not usually found with Grand Mal type of seizures.
 - b. They can be difficult to diagnose clinically with absolute certainty. Referral to see a Neurologist may be required for further investigation.