

Seizure Associated with Fever

- Caring for Your Child



Emergency Department

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Advice for Parents and Families

What is a seizure associated with a fever?

Seeing your child have a seizure is a frightening experience for parents. During a seizure, your child will have uncontrolled movements of the body. Seizures that are associated with fever (temperature over 38°C) are also known as febrile seizures.

What should I do?

- ▶ Keep calm. Most seizures last less than 5 minutes and will stop on their own.
- ▶ Call 911 for an ambulance to bring the child directly to an Emergency Department.
- ▶ Put your child on his or her side so that the mucus or vomit can roll out of the mouth (the child might otherwise choke).
- ▶ Loosen any tight clothing, especially from around your child's neck.
- ▶ Remove hard objects near the child so that the child will not hurt his or her head.
- ▶ Note what type of movement the child makes and how long the seizure lasts so that you can tell the doctor.
- ▶ If the child's body is hot when the seizure is over, undress the child and keep him or her cool.
- ▶ Allow the child to rest after a seizure. Most children will feel tired.
- ▶ Follow up with your child's doctor. Your child's doctor will look for a source of the fever.

What should I avoid?

- ▶ Do not put anything between the child's teeth or into the mouth. Do not put your fingers in the child's mouth.
- ▶ Do not give your child anything to swallow during the seizure.
- ▶ Do not put the child in a bath to stop the seizure.



You can also watch a short video that will show you what to do if your child has a seizure:

<http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/HealthAZ/TestsAndTreatments/How-To-Videos/Pages/Seizure-Video-What-to-do-if-your-Child-has-a-Seizure.aspx>

At BC Children's Hospital, you are an important member of your child's health care team. Please ask questions so you understand and can be part of decisions about your child's care and treatment.



If you have any questions, please call 604-875-2345 local 7261.

It's good to ask!

Developed by the professionals of the BC Children's Hospital Emergency Department with assistance from the Learning & Development Department.