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St. Teresa's Hospital
聖德肋撒醫院

Febrile Seizure



Health Information

Febrile Seizure

What is a febrile seizure?

Febrile seizure is a convulsion that induced by high fever which occurs in child who is between 6 months and 6 years of age. Febrile seizure does not cause any harm. Having a febrile seizure does not mean that a child has epilepsy; epilepsy is defined as having two or more seizures without fever present.

What causes a febrile seizure & who has this?

- Infection (e.g. urinary tract infection, upper respiratory tract infection, gastroenteritis) - occur as a result of the fever that accompanies bacterial or viral infections
- Immunizations - Fever can occur as a side effect of certain vaccines, particular after measles mumps rubella (MMR) vaccination.

Symptoms of a febrile seizure

- High fever with body temperature rise up drastically.

If there is febrile seizure, the child may have:

- Loss of consciousness
- Four limbs twitching or rigid
- Up rolling eyeballs / starring of eyes
- Frothy saliva
- Cyanosis
- Stiffy jaws
- Mostly convulsion persists of 10-15 seconds each and rarely lasts for 15 minutes. In general, the majority of children older than 5 years old do not have recurrent convulsion and there is no evidence to prove that convulsion will cause fatal or brain damage after recovery.

What procedures should I do for febrile seizures?

1. The parent /carer should keep calm
2. Place the child on their lateral side to avoid aspiration of secretion
3. Protect the child from injured but do not try to stop their movement or convulsions.
4. Do not put anything in the child's mouth.
5. When the seizure is controlled, bring the child to seek for medical help in advance.
6. Record the time of seizure. Seizures that last for more than 5 minutes require immediate treatment. Parent should stay with the child and call for emergency medical assistance.

7. If the child still has persistent high fever, the antipyretic suppository can be given according to the medical advice.

You should contact a doctor urgently or call an ambulance if:

- Another seizure starts soon after the first one stops
- The child has difficulty in breathing
- The child is not fully conscious after the seizure

This document is for information purpose and is not intended to be a substitute for the advice of a doctor. Should you have any queries, please contact your doctor-in-charge.

References: Medline

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