Evaluation of a Child Who Presents to the Emergency Department or Urgent Care Center After a Complex Febrile Seizure

A complex febrile seizure is a seizure that occurs in the presence of a fever that
(a) lasts > 15 minutes (prolonged) or
(b) only part of the body is affected (focal or partial) or
(c) two more seizures within a 24 hours period (recurrent)

Treat with any benzodiazepine

Is the patient seizing now?

Yes

Obtain a History and Physical

No

Is the diagnosis of a febrile seizure likely?

Yes

Identify and treat the source of the fever

No

Differential Diagnosis:
- Altered mental status from fever
- CNS infection
- Syncope during febrile states
- Abnormal motor manifestations
  - Tics
  - Shuddering
  - Dystonia
  - Rigors
  - Toxic ingestion
  - Trauma
    - Accidental
    - Non-accidental

When to consult Neurology

Should the patient be admitted?

No

Provide
- Anticipatory guidance
- Kids' Health materials (see list below)
- Follow up with PCP or clinic referral to Neurology per ED/UCC or neurological consultant preference

Yes

Admit

Discharge

Off Guideline

NOT recommended:
- Laboratory tests
- Lumbar puncture
- EEG
- CT Scan
- MRI
- Medications