

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](#)

Off Guideline

Is the patient seizing now?

Yes

No

[Obtain a History and Physical](#)

Is the diagnosis of a febrile seizure likely?

No

Yes

[Identify and treat the source of the fever](#)

[When to consult Neurology](#)

Should the patient be [admitted](#)?

No

Yes

Admit

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

Off Guideline

NOT recommended:

- [Laboratory tests](#)
- [Lumbar puncture](#)
- [EEG](#)
- [CT Scan](#)
- [MRI](#)
- [Medications](#)

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

[Discharge](#)