

# CARING FOR A PATIENT DURING AND AFTER A GENERALIZED SEIZURE



**A seizure** is a sudden, uncontrolled electrical disturbance in the central nervous system. While there is no known cause for seizures, they can be triggered by electrolyte imbalances, alcohol withdrawal, brain infections, traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), stroke, and more.

## Necessary Equipment and Supplies



Oxygen



Pulse oximeter



IV catheter setup



Suction



Vital sign machine

## General Guidelines on Caring for a Client During a Seizure

1. Protect client from injury by maintaining airway, removing any restrictive clothing, and positioning client on their side.
2. Call for help and note seizure start time, clinical presentation, and any possible triggers.
3. Stay with client and continue to monitor behaviors and symptoms.
4. Administer any medication, if ordered, by IV or rectal route.

### NURSING NOTE:

Do not administer oral medications as client will be unable to swallow safely until fully recovered from postictal state.

## General Guidelines on Caring for a Client After a Seizure

1. Monitor client during and following seizure activity for possible oxygen administration or to administer medication as ordered by provider.
2. Suction client's airways as needed to clear secretions.
3. Obtain vital signs and assess client's cognitive state.
4. Examine for any injury, pain, or incontinence.
5. Notify provider.
6. Continue to monitor until client fully recovered from postictal state. Inquire if client remembers any precipitating events or feelings prior to seizure.
7. Provide emotional support to client, family, and others that may have witnessed the seizure activity.
8. Document prodromal signs of seizure, duration of seizure activity, type of seizure activity noted, parts of body involved in seizure, incontinence during seizure, any injuries or pain reported by patient, medications, or oxygen use required.

### NURSING NOTE:

Review your organization's policies on seizure documentation and seizure precautions.

## NOTES

